



Navigating our Spiritual journey

Knowing where you are spiritually.

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 20th

Every successful navigation requires that you accurately identify at least:

Your Final (desired) Destination. (Where you hope to end up!

Your Current (actual) Location: (Where you're actually starting from!)

God challenges us to carefully examine/understanding our spiritual condition.

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, disqualified.)

Everyone Starts their spiritual journey from (or in) the same point (condition).

1 Cor 2:14 describes Verse 14 describes the "natural" spiritual condition of all mankind.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (Pneumatikos anakrino: Spiritually examined)

God describes this condition as spiritually:

- Disoriented (Lost) 2 Cor 4:3 (So God Seeks us! Lk 19:10)
- Deceived (Blind) 2 Cor 4:4 (So God gives us His light/truth! 2 Cor 4:6)
- Dead John 11:25; Eph. 2:1-3 (So God gives us His Life! Ro 5:8)

When we recognize & respond to God's truth, He moves us from Darkness to Light; Death to life. (2 Cor 4:6; Eph. 5:8-18; Col. 1:9-18)

This Grace allows us to become the second type (condition) of person described in 1 Cor 2:15,16

"But he that is spiritual judgeth all things. For who hath known the mind of the Lord? ... But we have the mind of Christ." (Nous: perception, understanding) How does this happen and why?

When we respond to God's Grace in faith, His Holy Spirit:

1. Saves (Regenerates) us. Titus 3:5,6 *"Not by works of righteousness which we've done,*

but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; "

2 Cor 5:17 *"if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; all things are become new."*

2. Seals (Preserves) us. Eph. 1:13,14 *"In whom ye trusted, after that ye heard*

the word of truth, 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"

(Peripoiēsis: Purchased and preserved treasure.) See also Gal. 4:4-6; Ro. 8:15,16; 1 Peter 2:9

Eph. 4:30 *"grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*

A. "Sealed" (sphragizō) means to stamp:

1) For Identification Gal. 4:4-6; Romans 8:14-16

2) For Protection 1 Peter 1:3-5 *"Blessed be God... which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ ..., To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept (phroureō: guarded) by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."* (1 Jn 3:1-3; Ro. 8:35-39)

When we respond to God's Grace in faith, His Holy Spirit:

3. Schools (teaches) us 1 Cor. 2:10-13 (what) *"God hath prepared for them that love him. but God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit... Now we've received, ... the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely 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 *"But the ... the Holy Ghost... shall teach you all things"*

- 1) That's why 1 Cor. 2:15 says *"he that is spiritual judgeth (anakrino: discerns) all things"*
And vs 16 reveals that: *"We have (available to us) the mind of Christ."*

4. Sanctifies (transforms) us. *"into the image of His son"* (Ro 8:28,29)

A. This involves a partnership. 1 Cor 3:9; Ph 2:12,13

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, ... work out your own salvation with fear ..."
For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"

2 Pt 1:3-5 *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature... And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith ..."*

- 1) Our Eternal life doesn't begin when we die! It begins when God's Spirit quickens our spirit, Saving, Sealing, Schooling and Sanctifying us. (Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 1:13; 1 John 3:1-3)

B. This involves a process. (Ro. 11:33-12:2 *"I beseech you therefore brethren"*)

- 1) Presentation. *"Present your bodies a living sacrifice..."* (See Mt 16:24,25)
- 2) Separation: *"Be not conformed to this world"* (See 2 Cor 6:14-18; 1 Jn 2:15-17)
- 3) Renovation: *"But be transformed by the renewing of your minds"* (2 Cor 3:18)
- 4) Application: *"that ye may prove... the will of God"* (James 1:22-25)

Conclusion: Jesus' commission to Paul (and us) is in Acts 26:17,18:

"...I now send thee to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

Application: Where are you in your spiritual journey?

1) Natural man **"Receives not the things of the spirit"**
Spiritually Disoriented (lost), Deceived, Dead!

2) Spiritual man receives God's Spirit who: *Saves (Regenerates), Seals (preserves), Schools (Teaches/matures), Sanctifies them.* (Ro. 8:16)

As believers, if we fail to cooperate with God's Spirit, then we become (or stay): the Carnal Christian of 1 Cor 3