

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Class 1: “The Mind of the Flesh vs. The Mind of the Spirit”

Rocky Mountain Bible School 2015

LED BY THE SPIRIT

- The Mind of the Flesh vs. The Mind of the Spirit
 - The Operation of the Spirit in the Lives of Believers
 - Prepared Unto All Good Works
 - By This Ye Shall Know
 - A Community Led by the Spirit
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LED BY THE SPIRIT

“For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

Romans 8:14-17

WHY THIS TOPIC?

- Personal discomfort with some positions taken to guard against wrong doctrine regarding Spirit gifts
- The Spirit and the believer appears to be a fundamental topic in Scripture (new car syndrome!)
- While it was clear that Holy Spirit gifts would cease, it was also clear that the Spirit was an enduring promise in the lives of believers
- Spirit life involves many things – to include the Word - but not limited to the Word
- As believers, we need to honor God by having an accurate understanding of His work through the Spirit in our lives

DANGER OF DOCTRINAL EXTREMES

- We are saved by works
- The Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- There is a supernatural power of evil and his name is Satan
- The Holy Spirit is in “possession” of believers today and reveals what to do
- We are saved by faith
- Jesus and God are not “One”
- There is no Satan
- The Holy Spirit is no longer active in the lives of believers, except through the power of the Word

A STUDENT DURING HIS BAPTISMAL INTERVIEW...

Is the Spirit
available
today?

Well, not the
gifts, but
otherwise it
operates in our
lives.

No, the Spirit
isn't available
today. We only
have the Word.

EVANGELICAL ERROR



FLESH AND MIND – EACH A WILL TO SIN!

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires **of the flesh** and **of the mind**; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

Ephesians 2:1-3



The Spirit's activity is to change the mind – to repattern thinking from the impulses of the flesh to the mind of the Spirit.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE SPIRIT IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS?

- How would you answer the question to an interested friend, “What do you believe the Spirit of God is?”
- Our answer might often be “His power”
- This is the premise for our classes – the Spirit is the power of God in our lives – under the direction of our Lord
- It is manifested in a multitude of ways, consistent since Creation
- To have this power in our lives, we have certain obligations, which we will examine
- Having the Spirit in our lives makes ALL the difference!

A FEW “DISCLAIMERS”

- Nothing in this study is ever intended to indicate that the Spirit works in us absent our mental process
 - Scripture itself was written in a way where both our academic and spiritual minds are fully engaged and challenged
 - God gave us a mind and He expects us to use it – correctly!
 - The activity of the Spirit is the energizing force that drives us toward spiritual maturity and away from the darkness of the flesh
 - But, we must have minds that are open and willing to change!
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OBJECTIVES

- Examine both Old and New Testament Scriptures about the activity of the Spirit in the lives of believers
 - Identify the important lessons for our lives as believers today
 - Feel a greater sense of intimacy and confidence in the Lord's power in our lives
 - Better understand our role in making our minds a habitation fit for Son and Father to dwell
 - How to communicate to those learning the Truth about the Spirit's activity today
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PAUL DESCRIBES LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:16-21

THE FULL PROCESS

- strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
- Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;
- know the love of Christ,
- be filled with all the fulness of God.
- according to the power that worketh (energeo) in us,

Ephesians 3:16-21

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

“for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” NIV

“For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose.” JBP

EPHESIANS 2:1-3, 9-10

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

WHAT STRIKES YOU?

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

ESSENTIAL POINTS



- This is about a process already in play – we are a new Creation
- We are not leading our own spiritual creation – we are the Lord's workmanship
- Our role is to submit to His correction, to allow the engrafted word to grow within us
- He creates within willing hearts the desire to do His work
- We are uniquely created for good works, prepared in advance for us to do!

IMPLICATIONS

- The full activity of the Lord in our lives is to prepare us toward an end – not only for the Kingdom, but right now
 - He rightly expects a return on the investment
 - Our trials, development, the very shaping of His handiwork, is to prepare the work of art to serve a purpose – to do a good work that was pre-planned!
 - This is not under the direction and development of Man, who cannot see the future
 - But, it is commanded by our Lord, who knows our hearts and prepares us
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PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO...

- Suggests to us that the development that our Lord leads us through – even our trials – are not just “random” acts
- God is developing us for specific work that He has planned in advance for us to do!
- Our development has a purpose, a target!
- The learning and faith-building of today is critical for us to have the capability for performing that work
- We need to be willing students and faithful in our trials

“EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE”

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also 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, unto the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:10-14

“EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE”



“earnest” – arrabon (a Phoenician word) - down payment or promissory note. Money deposited by the purchaser and lost or forfeited if not claimed later. Used in literature as the engagement ring!

2 Corinthians 5:5 – Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”

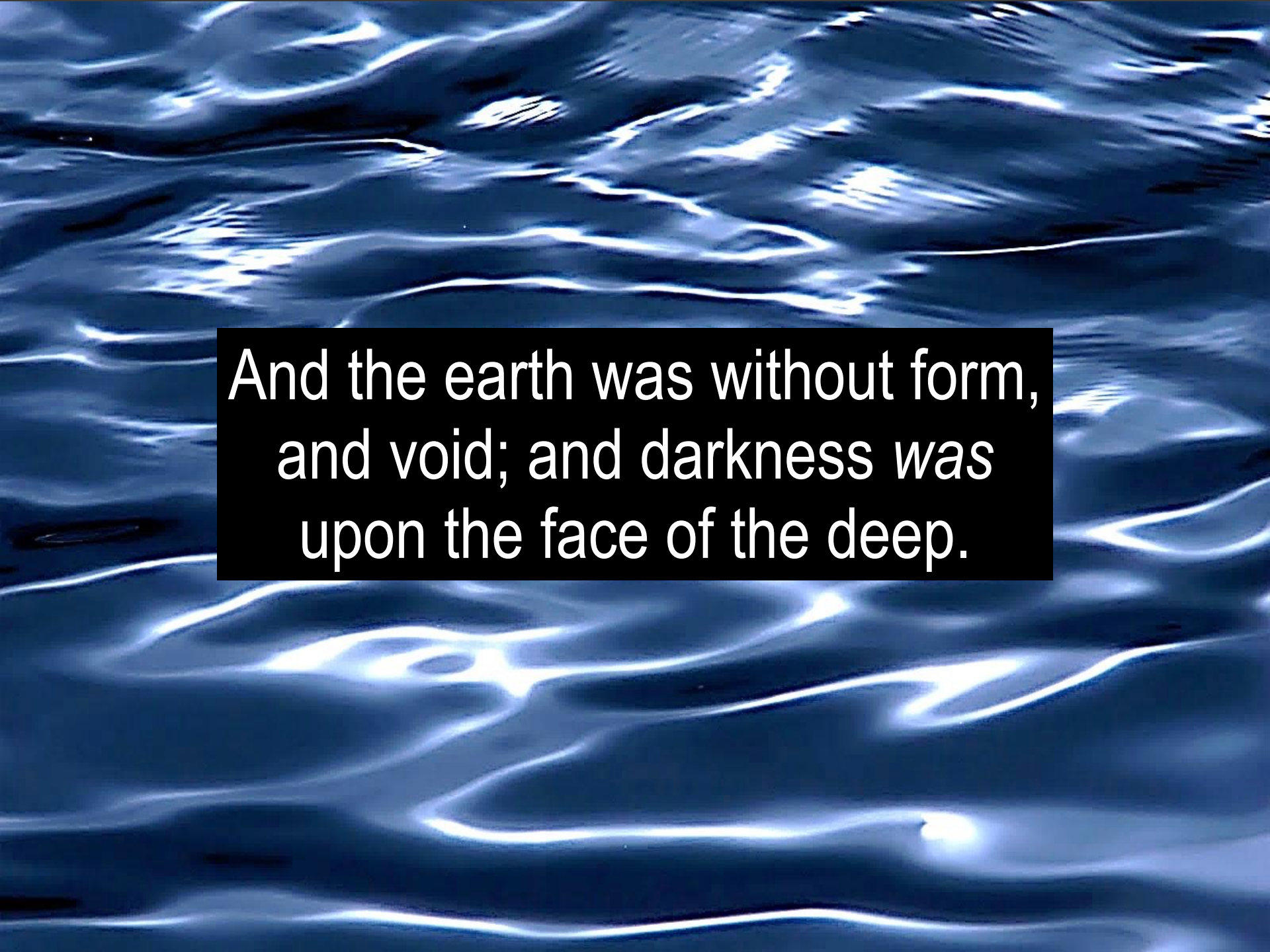
“THE PROMISE OR EARNEST OF THE SPIRIT”

- Intended to be a reminder to believers of the Divine intent to redeem
- Should speak to our hearts about the love of God to us
- Is to be experienced now – it is to encourage us as mortals
- Designed to be an awareness that the Lord is with us and actively involved

WE ARE INTENDED TO EXPERIENCE THE ACTIVITY
OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES – IT IS A GIFT OF GOD!



THE PRINCIPLE OF THE NEW CREATION



And the earth was without form,
and void; and darkness was
upon the face of the deep.



And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.



“formed man”



Hebrew: *yatsar*
to squeeze into shape, to mold into a form

GOD'S NATURAL CREATION



- From the basic dust of the ground, God took Adam from useless soil to form a living being.
- He shaped man in a way that he could be equipped to do all the tasks in the Garden – arms to lift, feet to walk, eyes to see, a back to bend.
- But, more importantly, He formed man to have a mind that was capable of spiritual thought and fellowship with God – a habitation.
- Man was the work of God's hand – His handiwork or work of art – the standout of all His creation.
- **Formed to be able to do work God intended him to do! PURPOSE!**

THE NATURAL CREATION



- Began in darkness
- A world without light and without hope
- Man did nothing to assist in the creative process – he was unconscious
- While in darkness, God sent Light
- Adam was specifically formed for the work that was planned for him to do
- It was the Spirit power that quickened Adam, with the breath of life making him a living being



But, what About the Spiritual Creation?

THE NEW CREATION

- Man's spiritual creation was out of darkness – we too were spiritually without form and void
- Nothing about our spiritual creation was due to our own power, but the power of the Potter
- God formed in Christ the New Man, in His image, with a purpose – to develop a mind like His and do good work
- Man would be capable in the New Creation of either reflecting God's character, or failing and adhering to the flesh – it would be with choice – just as was true with the new Creation.

THE NEW CREATION



“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

John 1:1-5

JOHN 1:9-13

*“That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, **to them gave he power (exousia – privilege, capacity, competency) to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

This new Creation was formed on choice. The Light is available to all men, but they must choose it. If they do, they are born of God and given power to become the Sons of God.

1 PETER 2:9

“But ye ***are*** a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath ***called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.***”

QUICKENED BY THE SPIRIT

- John 6:63 - It is the **spirit that quickeneth**; the flesh profiteth nothing: the **words** that I speak unto you, **they are spirit, and they are life**.
- Romans 6:11 – “...shall also quicken your mortal bodies **by his Spirit that dwelleth in you**.”
- Ephesians 2:1 - And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2:5 – Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us together with Christ...**
- Colossians 2:13 - And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, **having forgiven you all trespasses;**”

THE TWO CREATIONS



IMPORTANCE TO THIS TOPIC

- It is always the Spirit of God that gives life – both in the physical creation and the spiritual
- The Spirit “quickens” and delivers from darkness to light
- We are quickened in the new Creation to be “alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” – NOW!
- The Spirit’s new Creation begins a process within us to be free from sin and empowered unto all good works
- It is this new Creation where both our Lord and his Father will make their abode
- The Word provided has a lead role in this transformation

QUESTIONS TO BE EXAMINED

- How does the Spirit “dwell” with believers?
 - How specifically is the Spirit active?
 - How is the Spirit involved in our prayers?
 - How are we to understand the work of the Spirit and the work of Jesus Christ?
 - What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?
 - What is the role of the Word in our Spirit-life?
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FLESH AND SPIRIT

MORTIFY, PUT TO DEATH

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **Mortify** therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”

Colossians 3:1-5

Verse 5 - “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature...” NIV

MIND OF FLESH OR SPIRIT DWELLING IN YOU?

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the **carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, **neither indeed can be**. So then they that are in the flesh **cannot please God**. 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.”

Romans 8:5-9

IN THE FLESH, OR IN THE SPIRIT?

“And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; **but the Spirit is life because of righteousness**. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**”

Romans 8:10-11

MY REALIZATION

- The process of a life of a believer is not to “modify” or “improve” the mind of the flesh
- Rather, there is NO VALUE in the mind of the flesh – it is to be completely deadened and subdued in our mortal life
- The thinking of the flesh is enmity to God and CANNOT please Him
- Therefore, a life in the Truth is not about adapting, “tweaking” or modifying, but about a completely new character and way of thinking
- This, I believe, is a primary role of the Spirit in our lives

L.G. SARGENT, “JUSTIFIED BY FAITH”, 1949

“If the spirit is “in him” then he is embraced and included in “the Spirit”, as he was before included only in that which relates to “the flesh”. To be “in the Spirit”, while it is still to be in a mortal body, is at the same time to be related to an eternal environment which holds the promise of imperishable life: and all this Paul says in his vivid, elliptical language: “And if Christ be in you, the body is dead, because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness”.

THIRST FOR A MORE POWERFUL SPIRITUAL LIFE

“Now 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. 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. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

discerned – anakrino - to scrutinize, examine, search, judge

THE ROAD TO A SPIRITUAL MIND

- Though we start in darkness, we are offered light
- Progressively, the Lord works in our lives to create both a desire to do good works and the strength to do them
- This is the process of deadening the impulses of the flesh and replacing them with the mind of Christ
- It is a journey, the navigator of which is the Lord, not ourselves!



NICODEMUS AND THE MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT



“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 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. **The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**”

John 3:3-8

IMPLICATIONS

- Our fundamental role is to believe, to love and keep the commandments
- When we do this, our spiritual minds become a place where our Lord will choose to operate and the Son and his Father promise to make their abode
- We will likely not always understand where the Spirit is blowing or where it is going, **BUT**, we can experience its presence and acknowledge its power
- We are safely under the control of our Master in all aspects of our lives

NEXT CLASS

The Operation of the Spirit

How has God worked with men and women through
the Spirit?
