



WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Study 9 Our Constituted Design

You are a Spirit motivated being, like God. The main difference between human beings and animals is that with an animal it is instinct that makes them "tick." True, people have physical instincts too, but we are not supposed to be ruled by them. To do so is unnatural and destructive to our system because we are made to operate a different way. (Jude 10) Animals don't have a spirit, (Isaiah 31: 3) but we are made with a spirit to be ruled by it. Read and join the appropriate scriptures to the following facts:

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| Every human being has a spirit. | James 2: 26 |
| It is God who puts man's spirit in him. | Numbers 16: 22 |
| It is not possible to live without your spirit. | 1 Corinth. 6: 17 |
| Our spirit is designed to be joined to God's Spirit. | Romans 8: 14-16 |
| We are supposed to be led by God's Spirit (in our spirit). | Zechariah 12: 1 |

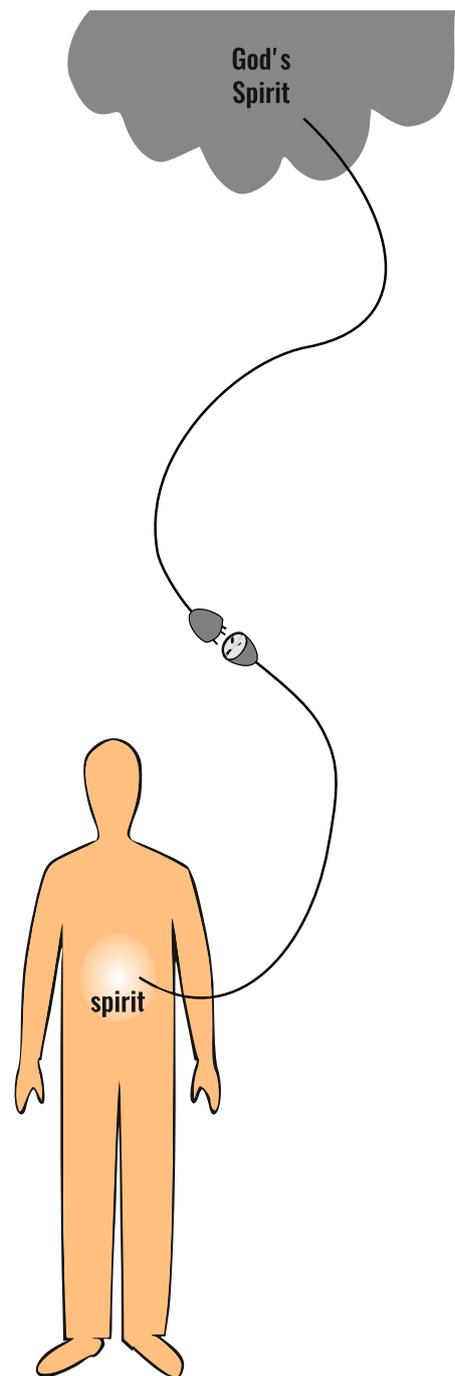
HOW OUR SPIRIT COMMUNES WITH GOD

Our human spirit is designed to dwell together with the Spirit of God in an **intimate spiritual union**. Such a fellowship existed once between God and Adam, and has always been God's desire. (Revelation 3:20, James 4:5)

So, think of the human spirit as being 'plugged into' God's Spirit when we become a Christian, through which we get spiritual understanding directly to our mind, beyond the usual process of education and head knowledge.

Spiritual communion may be experienced in several ways, some more common and others less. Read the examples given and notice how it is the spirit that seeks and fellowships with God; it is not a 'soulish' or intellectual discovery.

- **Intuitive Inner Perception** (Isaiah 30:21, Mark 2:8, Rom. 8:16)
- **Directly Declared Revelation** (Amos 3:7, 2 Peter 1:21)
- **Illumination of Scripture** (Luke 24:32,45, 2 Corinthians 3:6)
- **Praying in the Spirit** (Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 6:18)
- **Dreams and Visions** (2 Kings 6:17, Matthew 1:20, Acts 9:10)



OUR ORIGINAL CONSTITUTED DESIGN

Man is constituted this way: - His soul directs the body according to reason and will. His spirit, in turn, is designed to motivate the soul in righteousness according to the nature of the image of God. However, we would be dreaming to pretend that physical instincts never influenced our actions too. In fact, we have very powerful instincts. The major human instincts are:

1/ **Self-preservation** - the instinctive claim to shelter, survival and self-defence. _____

2/ **Hunger** - the inbuilt demand for food and sustenance. _____

3/ **Sex** - the inbuilt drive for the propagation of the human race. _____

4/ **Acquisitiveness** - natural desire to obtain things necessary for self-support. _____

5/ **Self-expression** - basic craving for success, and acceptance as a person. _____

Put the following examples in the spaces above, and see how these physical appetites are good in their proper place. They are natural and ordained of God for our survival. (Matthew 6:11, Matthew 6:32, Luke 19:17, 1 Corinthians 7:9, Esther 8:11) These instincts do, and are supposed to, influence the soul along with the higher influences of the spirit. However, under no circumstance should man allow his appetites to control his soul! To do so would be to descend to the level of the 'flesh' - to debase and degrade the image of God by relegating the spirit to a position of least authority, even below the urges of the lower nature!

Look at the picture, and imagine what happens if the spirit is darkened - that is - not joined to God. Fill in the missing words from Romans 8:7-8. Then see God's ultimate purpose in Romans 8:28-29, conclude the study by filling the words in Galatians 5:16-18.

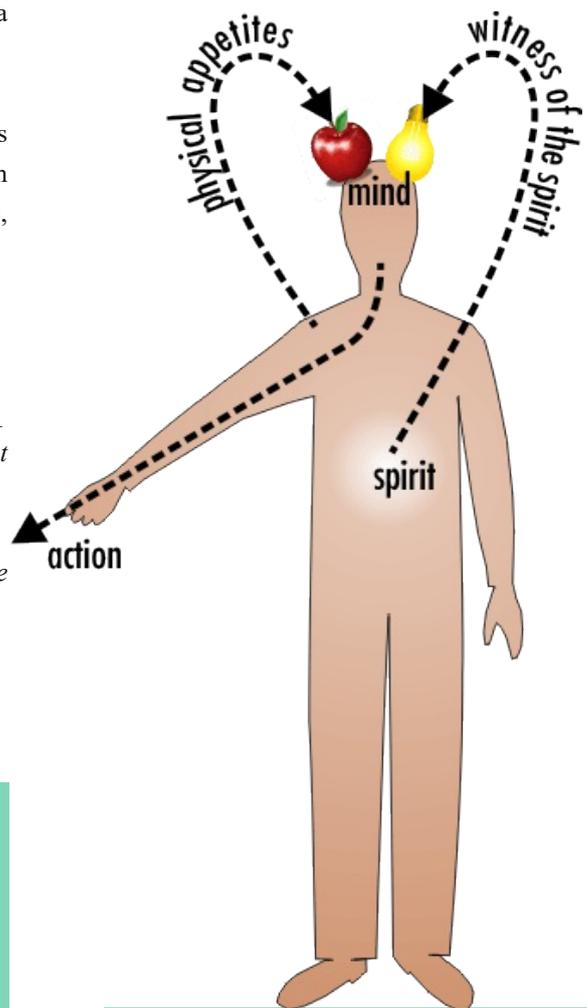
"The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it

_____ *nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:7-8)*

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to

_____ *" (Romans 8:28-29)*

"So I say, _____ and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want." (Galatians 5:16-18)



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