

THE TRIUNITY OF MAN

“Functions of the Spirit - Part 2”

I. FUNCTIONS OF THE SPIRIT.

- A. *Intuition (discussed in last lesson).*
- B. *Communion.*
- C. *Conscience.*

II. COMMUNION.

- A. *God's desire to commune or to fellowship with man.*
 - 1. God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day.
 - 2. Enoch walked with God.
 - 3. (Rev 3:20 KJV) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
- B. *We communicate with the material world through the body; we communicate with the spiritual world by the spirit.*
 - 1. Communicate spiritual knowledge to theirs by spirit
 - 2. All matters pertaining to God such as seeking his will, obeying his commandments, proclaiming his message, are effective only if they arise out of fellowship with God in the Spirit.
 - 3. (1 John 1:3 KJV) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- C. *In order to worship and fellowship with God man must possess a nature similar to His.*
 - 1. “God is *spirit*, and those who worship him must worship in *spirit* and truth (John 4:24).
 - 2. There can be no communication between different natures; hence both the unregenerate whose spirit obviously has not been quickened and the regenerate who does not use his spirit to worship are equally unqualified to have genuine fellowship with God.
 - 3. That is the reason fellowship or communion was broken with Adam and Eve after the Fall.
- D. *Acts of worship with the spirit and with understanding.*
 - 1. (1 Cor 14:2 KJV) For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.
 - 2. (1 Cor 14:14 KJV) For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.
 - 3. (1 Cor 14:15 KJV) What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

III. WORSHIP AS A FORM OF COMMUNION WITH GOD.

- A. ***In essence, what is worship?***
1. Worship is the human response to the perceived presence of the divine, a presence which transcends normal human activity and is holy.
 2. The presence of God is God's initiative in encountering people. Biblical words for the presence of God usually relate to the "face" of God.
 3. True worship is encountering God "face to face."
- B. ***The "face of God" involved a close relationship of God with His people.***
1. Moses had a close relationship with God; he knew God "face to face" (Deut. 34:10).
 2. The tabernacle was the place of the Lord's name or glory and manifestation of God's presence. (Ex. 40:34,38).
 3. The cloud and fire symbolized the presence of God leading the children of Israel on their journey to Canaan.
 4. The ark of the covenant was the primary tangible symbol of God's presence with the people.
 5. The temple became the resting place for the ark of the covenant and represented God's presence.
- C. ***Jacob perceived the presence of the Lord at Haran (Gen. 28:10-17).***
1. Jacob, fleeing away to Haran, perceived the presence of the Lord in a dream while sleeping at "a certain place."
 2. When he woke from his sleep, he said: Surely the Lord is in this place--and I did not know it! ... How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

IV. CONSCIENCE.

- A. ***Task of correcting, reprimanding, which renders us uneasy when we fall short of glory of God.***
1. As the holiness of God condemns evil and justifies good, so a believer's conscience reproves sin and approves righteousness.
 2. When we even consider wrong, our conscience together with our intuition will protest immediately and make us uneasy at any thought or inclination which is displeasing to the Holy Spirit.
- B. ***In sinner, intuition and communion totally dead, but something of movement in conscience.***
- C. ***The conscience is where God expresses his holiness.***
1. If a child of God desires to be filled with the Spirit, to be sanctified, and to lead a life wholly after God's will, he must adhere to the voice of conscience.
 2. To be faithful to conscience first step to sanctification.
- D. ***During the initial stage of a Christian's walk conscience only bears witness to right and wrong; as spiritual life grows, it bears witness as well to what is of God and what is not of God.***

V. IN ORDER TO COMMUNE, MUST HAVE CONSCIENCE CLEANSED BY PRECIOUS BLOOD. (Heb 9:14 KJV) How much more shall the blood of Christ, who

through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- A. ***A good conscience.*** (Acts 23:1 KJV) And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.
- B. ***Serve God with clear conscience.*** (2 Tim 1:3 KJV) I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;
- C. ***Unclear conscience means loss of confidence in approaching God.***
 - 1. (1 John 3:21 KJV) Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
 - 2. At moment conscience offended, faith weakened

TWO METHODS TO DEAL WITH CONSCIENCE.

- A. ***Argue or reason with it.***
 - 1. Rationalize that anything that is reasonable must be God's will and will be condoned by the conscience.
 - 2. The conscience never argues or reasons; it discerns God's will through intuition and condemns everything which is not according to Him.
 - 3. Explanation may satisfy the mind but never the conscience.

Ease conscience by other good works.

God's will is replaced with laudable deeds.

They have not obeyed God, yet they insist that what they now do is just as good as what He has revealed--perhaps even better, broader in scope, more profitable, greater in influence.

God does not look at the fat nor the number of the burnt offerings but solely at the sum of obedience to Him.