

WHO and WHAT ARE we, really?

Spirit in Man, Part 1 of 2



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Brand new sermon! What ARE you and I? Have you ever wondered what gives us LIFE? Or how God is involved in our breath or “spirit in man”? Or why humans are so different from animals, and why we have a mind and they don't? Or what happens when we die? Does something leave us when we die and go back to God in heaven? This is part 1 of a 2 part that will explain so many things people have pondered over the years.

(Note that I often say “Yeshua” for Jesus, and “Abba” which means Loving Daddy/Father for God our Father, and “Yehovah” for YHVH – when we read “the LORD” in the Old Testament. Many of you prefer “Yahweh”).

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Greetings, family members of God’s household and friends around the world.

This topic may seem “new” to many of you, but what I’m going to teach today was well known to Moses, Job, James and the prophets. Even Yeshua himself was involved in this. It’s all very clearly explained in scripture.

I often have much more on the audio, so as usual, *I recommend you listen to the audio while also using the notes* for rapidly keeping up with the scriptures that are cited. You’ll get much more out of the sermon that way. If you’re just using notes, you’ll miss out on some important statements and points.

My wife and I have been discussing various ramifications of this topic – of WHO and WHAT human beings really are. Then a new friend –with whom I have had some disagreements with on the subject of the nature of God the Father and Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah)—gave a sermon on this very subject that I felt was quite well organized. I had the scriptures already, but the way he summarized it in one question, which I’ll share with you later, is

what really made me decide to go ahead with my own sermon on it. You can't plagiarize scripture, but I did want to mention Boyd and say his sermon on the subject, but a different focus and angle, was very good.

So what are we human beings? WHO ARE we? That's what I'm covering today! What makes us different from animals? And we ARE different. Scripture actually tells us why we have a mind and they don't. We all have brains, but only mankind has a mind that can compose new music, build buildings, fly to the moon and imagine. Animals are very limited in these and rely on instinct.

I describe on audio how little newly born or hatched animals and reptiles can very soon be running, swimming – for their very lives depend on it. I'm sure baby cheetahs or lion cubs learn from watching mom too, but right from birth, a baby impala is soon walking and even running. They have to, or none would survive.

Whereas when our babies Rachel, Heather or Jonathan were born, for example, they were helpless and totally dependent on us. And frankly, without us to guard, protect, feed and love each one – they would have been hopeless.

I've spoken on portions of this topic years ago, but today I want to give a 2 part sermon going in depth into the topic today and ask an interesting question later in the message.

WHY do we need to cover this? Because without this understanding, there will be confusion about what we really are, and what happens when we die, or what is really happening when someone “comes back from the dead” or what will happen at the resurrection.

Let's start in Genesis 2 and see what made the first humans totally DIFFERENT from animal life forms. And again, we humans are NOT animals! We're a totally different strata of life form from animals and fish.

The first human comes to life... HOW?

Adam – can mean “red” (as in Edom also) or it can mean “dirt” – for dirt we are, and we end up as dirt when we die. The word for dirt is “adama” in Hebrew.

Gen 2 – Adam was created first. He was made from dust of the earth. There was no life in this clay model of humanity until something happened. The

body lying there was dead or lifeless. God did something for Adam that he did for no other creature. Let's read it.

Genesis 2:7 NKJV

“And LORD God (YHVH Elohim) formed man of the dust of the ground, and ***breathed [or blew]*** *into his nostrils **the breath of life**; and man became a living being.*” KJV says a “living soul”.

Living soul or living being – the word “soul” or “being” is *nephesh* in Hebrew (Strong's 5315) and has a broad range of meanings in the 753 times it's used in the Old Testament. It can mean breath, the inner being of a person, the whole person. It primarily refers to LIFE, whether human or animal life, which can die. Ezekiel 18:4 says the “soul that sins shall die”.

In Genesis 2:7, the word “being” or “soul” refers to Adam's LIFE – Nephesh.

One more thing: It is clear that God Most High – whom we know as God the Father – is the ultimate Supreme Creator but much of what God the Father does or did, was done *through* the Word of God, Yeshua (John 1:1-3, 14) – who was with God and was also God. So the “YHVH” (the LORD) mentioned in Genesis 2:7 was the Word of God Yeshua, by whom, through whom and FOR whom ALL things were created – most assuredly including ADAM and Eve (**Ephesians 3:9b; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; etc**).

Breath of life. “Breath” comes from *nesamah* – meaning breath, wind, or spirit. It's related to Hebrew word “ruach” (7307).

God did not have to breathe life into any animal, for they do not have this special breath of God, or his special “spirit in man” that comes from that breath. For all other life forms, God commanded – and they existed. Sea life suddenly appeared, bird life did, and then from out of the ground came the land animals and creatures (see **Genesis 1:20-25**) upon His command.

Something called “the breath of life” came into this clay figurine when YHVH breathed into his nostrils.

WHAT gives LIFE and makes us HUMAN

This breath that was breathed by God *was SPIRIT, but it was not God's holy spirit* that was put into Adam but something that scripture calls “the Spirit in Man” or “Spirit of a man” as we'll see. It is this spirit in us that gives us LIFE.

James 2:26

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Human life happens when the “spirit in man” comes into a being – which has to happen, I believe, even long before birth. This “spirit in man” comes from God to awaken us to human life, and when we die we’ll see what specifically happens to this Spirit in man later in this message.

Job 33:4 – “The spirit of God has made me, and the **BREATH of the Almighty gives me life.**” (Also see Isaiah 42:5)

When we lose our breath, our life soon ends! (1 Kings 17:17). Job says in Job 27:3 – “As long as my breath is in me, and the BREATH OF GOD in my nostrils...” i.e., “as long as I’m alive”.

So the breath of life we have comes from God. It was given directly to Adam and every human from Adam also received it and has had it. We’ll soon see it is associated with what is called the spirit in man. The breath comes from God. God chooses when to recall his breath in each one. Guess what happens when or if God does recall his Breath in mankind? Elihu, a young friend who seemed to have the most insight, says this:

Job 34:14-15

“if HE (God) should set his heart on it, and should gather to himself **His Spirit and his breath, all flesh would perish together,** and man would return to dust.”

So the breath of God into humans is what gives us life. In fact there is a Biblical expression for all living things: “all that has breath...”

Let me warn some of you: if you’re using the super modern paraphrases and “translations” other than NKJV, and KJV, some of them totally re-word these scriptures.

THE “SPIRIT IN MAN” (or “of a man”)

The Spirit in man, is what makes us what we are, and makes us unique. It’s what makes us humans and not like animals. It’s what gives us our MINDS and UNDERSTANDING and ability to learn, reason, appreciate the arts, to grow, to be different from all other life forms on earth. It’s what makes us cry and what makes us laugh. It’s what makes us human. Let’s let scripture affirm what I just said:

Job 32:8

"But **there IS a spirit in man**,
And the **breath of the Almighty** gives him **understanding**."

Proverbs 20:17

"The spirit of a man is the lamp of YHVH, searching all the inner depths of his heart."

1 Corinthians 2:9-11

But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

(Note: mankind can't begin to even IMAGINE what God has in store for us!)

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Paul goes on to explain HOW we humans have the ability to think, ponder, learn, reason, engineer, design, compose music etc that animals don't have. Let's read it, continuing on in verse 11:

11 For what man knows the things of a man **except the spirit of the man which is in him**? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (Good to cross reference with Job 32:8).

IMPORTANT: When I speak of the Spirit in man, or spirit OF man, this is NOT the same as God's HOLY spirit, which he gives to those He's calling and who have repented and accepted Yeshua as their Savior.

Another huge point: **God personally forms each one's Spirit in man to make us each unique**. Everything about each of us is unique. Not just finger prints, but our eyes, our lips, everything.

Zechariah 12:1

The burden of the Word of YHVH against Israel. **Thus says LORD (YHVH), who** stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, **and forms the spirit of man within him**:"

From what I can see in scripture, the spirit in man contains the entirety of your DNA, which is from God, and everything that makes you – YOU. Your "heart and soul", your memories, your uniqueness... everything! And since it comes from God and is designed by God, He claims ownership ultimately of all the spirits in mankind. Let's see it in scripture:

Ezekiel 18:4

"Behold, **all souls are Mine**; The soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die."

("Soul" = #5315 nephesh – breath, including the inner being of a man with its thoughts and emotions)

Hebrews 12:9

"Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily **be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?**"

Moses knew this – God himself determines the makeup of our spirits and "owns" our spirits in man:

Numbers 16:22

Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, **the God of the spirits of all flesh**, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"

Numbers 27:15-17

15 Then Moses spoke to YHVH, saying: 16 "Let YHVH, **the God of the spirits of all flesh**, set a man over the congregation, 17 who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of YHVH may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

WHEN GOD FIRST KNEW YOU

Have you ever wondered WHEN God first knew you?

I know that even from when I was a young child I personally felt a solid connection to the Almighty. I was born 2 weeks late, and doctors said they could not detect a heartbeat. But godly people prayed for my mother and for me, and I was born just fine. As a young child of 7-8-9 years of age growing up in the Philippines, often after school I'd walk alone on the beaches of the South China Sea in San Fernando, La Union and commune with God. I felt God's hand on my life and presence with me.

We don't have to guess when God first knew you or everything about you. Here's what He said to Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 1:4-5

4 Then the Word of YHVH came to me, saying:

5 "**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;**
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Do you remember what Paul tells us in several scriptures – that God predestined those who are being called now? YOU, I mean! Remember this verse – “Those He predestined, He **FOREKNEW**....” (that’s Romans 8:29!) God knew you as a viable LIFE FORM even before you were born! WOW!

Here are some more verses on being predestined (and I will cover that in a coming sermon God willing): Romans 8:29-30; Eph 1:5, 11; Romans 11:2.

If you really grasp what God is telling you – that he knew YOU even before you were born, you surely would have tears welling up in your eyes over God’s grace and favor towards you – yes you!

Psalms 139:13-16

“For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.”

So when did the Almighty first know you? From before you were born. Then
when your dad’s sperm and your mom’s egg joined to form an embryo, and a HUMAN being was formed – that’s when God put the spirit of man inside of you, and you became the start of a human, way back then. And it seems, He selected you from the womb to be among the Called-out-ones. Some believe the Spirit in Man comes when a child takes its own first breath, but I don’t think that’s right, and here’s why:

Scripture puts the life of an unborn boy or unborn girl on an equal par with adult life. Let me say it again. Here’s proof.

Exodus 21:21-25

22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. **23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give LIFE for LIFE,** 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe

Unborn fetuses, the unborn children IN the womb are referred to as “the babe” in scripture. (Luke 1:39-45, especially 41, 44) The word “babe” comes from Greek #1025 brephos – and refers to unborn child, or an INFANT – Luke 2:12, 16; 18:15; Acts 7:19).

So God knew you as his breath, as his spirit in man inside you that He owns, even while you were still being formed in the womb. He certainly called certain ones from the womb or even from before they were even conceived – including these: Paul – Gal 1:15-16; John the Baptist, Cyrus, Jeremiah, David

Here are the scriptures: John the Baptist (John 1:13-15), Paul (Gal 1:15-16), Cyrus (Isa 45:1-13; 44:28), Jeremiah (Jer 1:5); David (Psalm 139:16). Certainly these particular people are mentioned by name as being pre-known by God before their birth.

The QUESTION NOW

So what do we have so far? Adam was just a hunk of clay before he received the breath of the Creator and then he became a living being, a living soul. Before this, he was just dirt. Now with the spirit in man, he comes alive.

NOW THE QUESTION – that was so well phrased by my friend Boyd – “Are we flesh that happens to have a spirit, or are the real “us” or real “we” really SPIRIT LIVES that are housed in a fleshly house or fleshly body, our house of clay?

Is the “real you” your fleshly body that upon death will change to dust? Is that the real you? Or is “the real you” that spirit essence that makes you human?

Before you think I’m off my rocker (crazy), let’s see more scriptures.

OUR EARTHEN fleshly BODIES are only temporary

Paul calls our fleshly bodies of clay and dirt – a temporary house, a TENT. Peter does too. They see that ***the real you*** is HOUSED in a temporary fleshly

body they call a container, a vessel – or a TENT. Paul and Peter and Job certainly understood this.

2 Corinthians 4:7

“But WE have this treasure in earthen VESSELS, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us”

2 Peter 1:13-14

“Yes, I think it is right, **as long as I am in this TENT**, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that **shortly I must put off my tent**, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me”

To Peter, to die was to come out of the temporary TENT we’re in – which is our earthen vessel, our bodies of clay and dirt. And they understood that the flesh, clay bodies God gave life to, is temporary and returns to dust.

Genesis 3:19

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
*Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return."*

One of Job’s “friends” – Eliphaz -- had an encounter with an evil spirit who appeared to him as a ghost-like figure. Demons will speak truth mixed with error, good and evil. Here’s what the ghost-like demon said to Eliphaz who is now recounting that scary experience to Job:

Job 4:12-17

"Now a word was secretly brought to me,
And my ear received a whisper of it.
13 In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night,
When deep sleep falls on men,
14 Fear came upon me, and trembling,
Which made all my bones shake.
**15 Then a spirit passed before my face;
The hair on my body stood up.**
16 It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance.
A form was before my eyes; there was silence;
Then I heard a voice saying:
17 'Can a mortal be more righteous than God?
Can a man be more pure than his Maker?

This was a fallen angel, a demon, appearing ghost-like to Eliphaz....

Job 4:18-19 – this is the demon speaking:

“If He puts no trust in His servants,
If He charges His angels with error,
**19 How much more those who dwell in houses of clay,
Whose foundation is in the dust,
Who are crushed before a moth?”**

So which is the real “YOU” – the spirit in man in you, the spirit part of you, or the house of clay that *houses* the spirit? Is it the spirit you have from God – or the TENT, the temporary house... which is the real YOU? Paul says more.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So are you seeing why I’m stating the question as my friend Boyd put it – “Are we flesh, vessels of clay that happen to have a spirit component – or are ‘WE’ primarily SPIRITS that are housed temporarily in vessels of clay, our fleshly bodies?” In Part 2 I’ll definitely get into the kinds of bodies we will have at our resurrection to glory.

REMEMBER again our starting scripture – **James 2:27– “the body without the spirit is DEAD...”**

So—what have we covered so far?

- **Adam was just a clay vessel until God blew the breath of life into him (Genesis 2:7)**
- **That is referred to as the Spirit in man (Job 32:8; 1 Cor 2:11)**
- **The Spirit in man is what gives us a mind, helps us understand, and what makes us human**
- **SPIRIT IN MAN records and contains our DNA, everything we’ve seen and heard, our memory and experiences, our “Heart and soul”...**

- **God foreknew us before our birth (Rom 8:29-30; Jer 1:5)**
- **Our present lives are called TENTS, earthen vessels... as we've just read (2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Peter 1:13-14)**
- **Our bodies are not our real main selves, but our real self is really our Spirit in man in us.**

LET'S end it here – as part 1, and next time, we'll pick up much more on this topic. Next time we'll cover a quick review, then –

- What happens when we die? It is SO CLEAR in the Bible, we'll cover next time.
- Does anything go up to God in heaven -- or not?
- What happens when people are resurrected back to *human* life again – like Lazarus, like others who had died and brought back to life? We'll cover next time.
- What happens to those who are resurrected to glory in the first resurrection? What kind of body will each of them have?
- Is there any consciousness in our spirit in man after we die?
- Has anyone ever really gone to heaven or not? John 3:13
- What about Enoch and Elijah? Didn't they go to heaven? Aren't they up there right now?
- WHY would we have to be resurrected if our spirit in man is already back with God and having a good time in heaven?
- Will we see God Most High?

So don't miss part 2. It will be loaded with much information all backed up with scripture. Tell others about this sermon or even just about this website, if it's blessing you.

CLOSING PRAYER