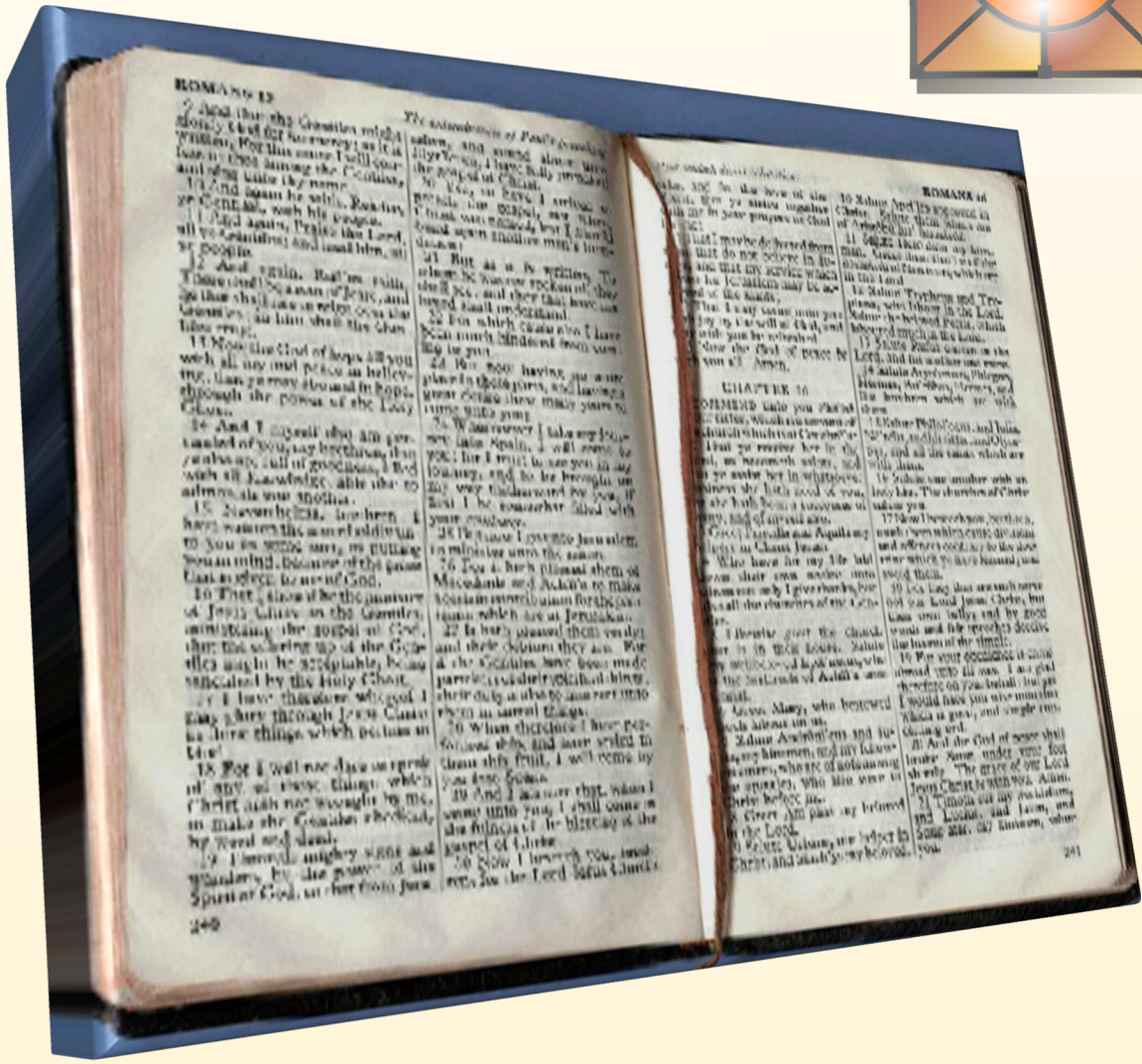




# Why You Need The Spirit Of God



Man was made to need another spirit-the Holy Spirit of God! A man can come to know that which is spiritual only through God's Holy Spirit, which works with the human spirit in his mind. That is the only way the human mind can receive and comprehend the knowledge of and attain God's GREAT PURPOSE for man's existence.



# A Second Spirit Needed

Man has the intellectual capacity to design spaceships to take him to the moon and back, to invent the computer and to do other marvelous exploits in the physical, material realm. Yet during man's nearly 6,000 years on earth, he has proved that he cannot solve his problems with fellowmen.

Why has this been so? Because man's real problems are spiritual in nature and the natural man simply cannot solve spiritual problems. In producing the computer or in flying to the moon, he is dealing with physical matter which he can understand because of the human spirit within him. But he cannot solve problems with fellow humans because this involves knowledge and understanding of spiritual principles which he cannot comprehend without the addition of another spiritual element to his mind!

## What Is Man?

In the FOUNDATION of knowledge, God's Instruction Book for man, the Creator God reveals much knowledge totally beyond man's ability to discover for himself--including the knowledge and understanding of what man is, why he was

made that way, as well as what he is to become.

God created the first man. And He tells us how He made him so there would be no doubt as to what we really are.

1. Out of what did God form man? Gen. 2:7. Was it the whole man--"thou"--that was composed of dust? Gen. 3:19.

2. After God had formed the man--made all the cells in his body--what did He do to give him physical life? Gen. 2:7.

COMMENT: God blew into the man's lungs through the nostrils air--"the breath of life"--containing oxygen and the man began to live! Notice that the verse does not say God breathed an immortal soul into the man.

3. Does the "breath of life" also pass through the nostrils of animals? Gen. 7:21-22. Is it therefore the breath of life that is cut off when a human being or an animal dies? Verse 23.

COMMENT: The source of physical life in man and all animals is the same. Not once does the "breath of life" even remotely refer to an "immortal soul" or life apart from the physical body. Otherwise animals, birds and even insects--gnats, fleas, mosquitoes--

have immortal souls, for they all have the same "breath of life"!

4. After God breathed the breath of life into Adam's nostrils, what did he become? Gen. 2:7, last part.

5. Is man plainly said to be "mortal"? Job 4:17. And are we emphatically told that "souls" can die? Ezek. 18:4, 20.

COMMENT: Since man is a soul, and the soul is mortal, then man is mortal, subject to death. That is why the Scriptures call human beings "mortal man."

6. Was Adam subject to the penalty of death if he sinned? Gen. 2:17, last part. What would he become after death? Gen. 3:19. Was it the body only that would die, or was it the whole man--"thou"--that would die? Same verse.

7. What one thing befalls both man and beast? Eccl. 3:19. Is this because air ceased to enter their lungs? Same verse.

8. Do all men and animals alike go to the same place at death? Verse 20. COMMENT: When an animal dies, it is dead. When man dies, he is completely dead, too. Both go to the grave. And all men and animals become dust once again.

9. Now what does Ecclesiastes 3:21 ask?

COMMENT: Although the same death befalls both, the Bible reveals there is a vast difference between man and beast, as we will shortly see--and that difference does not have to do with any "immortal soul."

10. When a person dies--becomes lifeless--does he still have a conscious existence apart from the body because of an "immortal soul" that existed within him? Eccl. 9:5; Psalm 146:4.

11. Are the dead able to praise God? Psalm 115:17. Is there any remembrance of God in death? Psalm 6:5.

12. Is the "soul" something which can be destroyed? Matt. 10:28. Then didn't Jesus plainly show that the soul of man is not immortal? Let's understand exactly what Jesus was talking about.

COMMENT: There are those who use this text to support the common belief of the immortality of the soul. Yet this verse plainly says the soul is something that can be destroyed in hell! Thus, whatever this "soul" is, it could NOT be immortal!

In Matthew 10:28, the word soul refers to life that man cannot permanently destroy--but which God can. What kind of life could this be? Obviously life which God RESTORES by a resurrection!

Man cannot permanently destroy a life that God renews by a resurrection. Although men may kill their physical bodies, said Jesus, true Christians know that men cannot take from them eternal life, which God has promised at the resurrection. But GOD can permanently destroy all possibility of eternal life. How? By casting a physically resurrected person into the "lake of fire" to be utterly consumed--never to be resurrected again. This is the ultimate penalty of sin ( Rom. 6:23)--eternal death!

The book of Luke makes the meaning plainer: "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which AFTER he hath killed hath power to cast into hell..." Luke 12:5. God not only has the power to take our present physical life, but also has the power to resurrect us and--if we have proven to be disobedient and incorrigible--to cast us into the lake of fire from which there will be NO future resurrection! ( Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8.)

This possibility of eternal destruction is a key reason why God made humankind mortal!

## Why Created Mortal?

God's master plan for accomplishing His purpose in the human race took form and shape even before man was made. If mortal man sinned by rejecting God's government--as all but Jesus have--God would make it possible for him to REPENT--to turn from sinning, to be reconciled to God and to live God's way of life, finally to be children of His eternal family!

1. Did the Word volunteer, in advance, to divest Himself temporarily of the supreme power and glory He had possessed from eternity, to be begotten by God, and be born of human flesh for the purpose of death to pay the penalty for the sins of mortal man? John 1:1, 14; 17:5; Heb. 2:9; Phil. 2:5-8; Rom. 5:6-9; I Peter 1:19-21; Rev. 13:8.

COMMENT: Since God delegated the actual creation of man to the Word John 1:3, the Word, when physically born as a human be-

ing for the purpose of death, would, in that death, be giving a life of greater value than the sum total of all human lives. And, being Divine as well as human--being God as well as man, He, the person of Christ, avoided sinning through the fullness of the Holy Spirit which He possessed. Then He, who never sinned, although tempted in all points just like the rest of humanity [ Heb. 4:15,] in death could pay in our stead the penalty we have incurred, which is eternal death [Rom. 6:23.]

Since God the Father has the power of life and death, He resurrected Christ from death to immortal life--thus making a resurrection to immortal, Spirit-composed life also possible for mankind [ Rom. 5:10.]

2. Does God therefore command all men to repent? Mark 1:14-15; Acts 17:30; 2:38. What are we in reality choosing when we repent? Deut.30:19-20.

COMMENT: Repentance is turning from the way of Satan to the government of God. It is accepting God's rule over our lives through His Law of love. It is accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and soon-coming King--the "second Adam" who did qualify ( whereas the first Adam failed) to reestablish the government of God on the earth by overcoming Satan. Those who are to reign with Christ must also qualify during this mortal life by turning from and rejecting Satan's way, overcoming that way day by day, and actually living by God's Law of love.

3. Will those who choose life--who repent of sin and obey God--be born of immortal spirit at the first resurrection? I Cor. 15:42-54; John 3:3-8.

4. But what about those who will not repent and accept Christ's sacrifice in payment for their sins--those who refuse to turn from Satan's way and refuse to come under the government of God in their lives--what will ultimately happen to them? Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15; Mal. 4:1-3.

COMMENT: God wants every human being who has ever lived to have the opportunity to repent and live forever [ II Peter 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:3-4 ]. But God will not force anyone to choose life. For those who refuse to follow God's way to eternal life there will be the "second death"--the fate of all UNrepentant sinners. They will cease to exist forever. They will be as if they had never been!

We can now see that God chose to make man first out of physical matter instead of spirit for an important reason. God planned in advance that if man, composed of matter, sinned and refused to repent, he would die--he would be as though he had not been. God will not allow any incorrigible human being to live forever in mental anguish and torment. This plan reflects the great mercy of God toward mortal man!

When called by God and made to realize that he has sinned, man can REPENT--turn from his sin to God's way. And once his course is changed, with God's help he can pursue a life of obedience to God. He can grow in spiritual knowledge and develop the character of God--overcome wrong habits, weaknesses and faults. ( More about this later.) And this is all done through the free will

and choice of each human mind. And that brings us to the crux of this lesson!

Only man, of all God's physical creatures, has the seemingly miraculous ability to think, reason, plan and design, come to conclusions based on acquired knowledge. Animals cannot comprehend the concepts of good and evil. They don't repent.

### Why you need the Spirit of God ?

The ability to solve your problems and your problems with fellow humans involves the knowledge and understanding of spiritual principles which cannot be comprehended without the addition of another spiritual element into your mind!

1. What was the apostle Paul inspired to write about man's understanding of the spiritual things of God? I Cor. 2:9-11. What must be added before a man can comprehend spiritually revealed knowledge? Verse 11, last part; verse 14.

COMMENT: Man was made to need another spirit--the Holy Spirit of God! Just as a human could not know the things of human knowledge except by the human spirit within him, so he cannot know the things of God--spiritual knowledge--except by the addition of the Spirit of God.

Just as surely as no animal brain--such as that of a cow, for example--can comprehend or understand human affairs without the human spirit, so no human mind can have comprehension of spiritual truths on the divine plane without the Holy Spirit!

Even the greatest scientific and philosophical minds simply cannot come to know and understand SPIRITUAL truths with their natural minds. God's truth is "foolishness" to them. The natural man with his human spirit is limited to material knowledge.

Spiritual things cannot be seen with the eye, heard with the ear, felt with the hands. The human mind, which can receive knowledge only through the physical senses, can never really comprehend spiritual concepts and principles without the Holy Spirit of God. A man can come to know that which is spiritual only through God's Holy Spirit, which works with the human spirit in his mind. That is the only way the human mind can receive and comprehend the knowledge of and attain God's GREAT PURPOSE for man's existence!

2. Does God reveal there is duality in the creation of man? I Cor. 15:45-49. Must man be born again to enter the kingdom or family of God? John 3:3-8.

COMMENT: Mortal man was created incomplete. The complete creation of man is to be accomplished in two stages: 1) the physical phase, which was completed with the first man, Adam; and 2) the spiritual phase, which began with the Second Adam, Jesus Christ.

And to accomplish the spiritual phase, man was made to need another Spirit--the Holy Spirit of God.

3. How does one receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:38; John 7:37-39.

COMMENT: Through Christ, the Second Adam, we can receive God's gift of His Holy Spirit. Upon repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, whose death paid the penalty for sin in our stead, we may be reconciled to God and receive the Holy Spirit of God, which is added to our human spirit.

4. Do we then become the begotten children of God? I Peter 1:3; Rom. 8:14-17.

COMMENT: The human spirit in man and the Holy Spirit of God join to make a begotten child of God, just as the male sperm cell and the female ovum or egg cell join to make a begotten human, but not yet developed or ready to be born as a human being.

God's Holy Spirit, when it combines with the human spirit in the human mind, does two things: 1) it begets the human with divine, eternal life to be later born as children of God, then composed wholly of spirit; 2) it imparts to the mind the ability to comprehend spiritual knowledge--to understand the things of God.

5. When will spirit-begotten Christians be born into God's spirit family? I Cor. 15:50-53; I Thess. 4:16-17.

COMMENT: The Spirit-begotten Christian now has, conditionally, the presence of eternal life within him ( or her) through a portion of the Spirit from the Father. But this does not mean he is an immortal spirit being. He is not yet wholly composed of God's Spirit. He is now an "heir" of God ( Rom. 8:16-17)--not yet an inheritor or a possessor, not yet "born again." But, if the Holy Spirit dwells in us, God will, at Christ's return to earth as King of

kings, give us immortality by His Spirit that dwells in us ( Rom. 8:11).

Now just as in human reproduction the impregnated embryo, which later becomes a fetus, is not yet born but must be nourished for a period of time through the human mother; so the begotten Christian is not yet born as a mature child of God. The divine life has merely been begotten. It must now grow!

## Why We Must Grow Spiritually

Included in God's purpose for creating man is the development of righteous, spiritual character within him! Notice again what God said in Genesis 1:26: "Let us make man in our image...." The original Hebrew here indicates far more than merely the form and shape of God--His outward likeness. "Image" also refers to mind and character! God intended for man--to whom He gave the gift of a thinking, reasoning mind--to ultimately have the very nature of GOD.

1. Are spirit-begotten Christians therefore admonished to grow spiritually? II Peter 3:18; I Peter 2:1-2. Who are we eventually to become like?  
Matt. 5:48; Eph. 4:15; I John 3:2, 9.

COMMENT: Just as the human body and brain gradually begin to form during the gestation period in human reproduction, the righteous and holy character of God must begin to form and grow once one is begotten by God's Spirit.

Obviously, we cannot become absolutely perfect in character until the resurrection when God will complete the process by giving each of us a new, perfect spirit body with its perfect--sinless ( I John 3:2, 9)--nature that will be like Christ's and the Father's. But in the meantime, God wants us to grow in His spiritual character daily by obeying His commandments and overcoming and rooting sin out of our lives--growing toward that spiritual perfection!

Such perfect, holy character cannot be created by fiat. It must be developed and that requires time and experience. God gives us time in which to learn that only His way of life brings real peace, happiness, and a joyful, abundant life. We will have learned that sin causes only heartache, misery, suffering and death.

2. What is one important way we are to grow once spiritually begotten of God? Matt. 4:4; II Tim. 3:16-17.

COMMENT: We become spiritual "embryos" when, upon receipt of the Holy Spirit, we are begotten of God. And to grow spiritually, we must take in spiritual nourishment. Just as the embryo in a mother's womb must be nourished with life-giving food through the placenta, so we must be nourished by the Word of God. "... The words that I speak unto you," said Jesus, "they are spirit, and they are life" ( John 6:63. Those words are recorded in the Bible--and Jesus said we are to live by every word of God. We drink in these life-giving words from the Bible through reading, studying and meditating ( thinking) on what we read.

Spiritual character development requires time and comes largely by experience--by

putting the Word of God into practice in our daily lives.

One builds the righteous character of God as he comes to discern, through God's revelation in the Holy Bible, right from wrong--the true values from the false--truth from error, then chooses the right and rejects the wrong and, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, resists the wrong and DOES the right! Growing in spiritual knowledge and spiritual character is a gradual process that continues the rest of one's life.

3. Is prayer also essential to our spiritual growth and overcoming? Matt. 6:5-15; Eph. 6:18.

COMMENT: In addition to Bible study, earnest prayer is absolutely necessary. We also absorb spiritual nourishment through personal, daily contact with God. When you study the Bible, God is talking to you. When you pray, you are talking to Him. You really get to know God in this manner, just as you become better acquainted with people by conversation.

4. Is the love we share in Christian fellowship with other spiritually-begotten people in God's Church another important way we grow in God's character? I John 1:3, 7; Heb. 10:25.

5. Exactly what part does God's Church play in the individual Christian's spiritual growth? Gal. 4:26; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11-15.

COMMENT: God's Church is the spiritual "mother" of all who have been begotten by God's Holy Spirit. So just as a human mother feeds her begotten child within her womb through the placenta and umbilical cord, God's children are nourished with spiritual food within the true Church.

6. When will we, if we are spirit-begotten Christians, become fully mature, fully grown children of God's divine family? I Thess. 4:16-17; Phil. 3:20-21; I John 3:2.

COMMENT: Finally, when resurrected from the dead or changed from mortal flesh to immortal spirit at Christ's return, the incredible human potential will have blossomed into reality. We will have been BORN mature children of God possessing the fullness of the very character of God!

But since the mortal bodies of those to be resurrected will have already returned to the dust of the earth, how will God restore their former appearance and accumulated funds of knowledge? And what about the righteous character God built within them while alive? The answer to these intriguing questions has to do with the "spirit in man"!

**Spirit "Recording" Makes Resurrection Possible**

There is an old saying, "You can't take it with you when you die." You may drive yourself relentlessly to amass a financial fortune in this life, but you'll leave it all behind when you die.



There is, however, something infinitely more valuable in life that isn't lost when one dies. And that is the righteous, spiritual character that God, the Master Potter ( Isa. 64:8, is fashioning in those of us who are His spirit-begotten children. In the resurrection, you not only will look just like you do now ( without handicaps or blemishes, of course, you will have the same knowledge you acquired in this life--and the same character!

Such men of God as Abraham, Moses, David and Daniel died thousands of years ago. But they will be brought back to life at Christ's return. Since they were composed of corruptible flesh and blood, their bodies have long since decomposed and returned to dust. So how can they exist again as individual personalities? God had to provide some way to preserve their form, shape, appearance, mind and character.

God can bring a dead individual back to life even though a human body that once lived disintegrates, decomposes, or is cremated and scattered to the four winds. It is the "spirit in man" that preserves our very form, shape, memory and character. The resurrected immortal body in the first resurrection will be precisely like the former, though now composed of spirit.

Recall that God puts in every person a separate "human" spirit. As was emphasized before, this spirit does not impart life, cannot see, hear, feel or think. But it does impart mind power to the brain. And this spirit records every bit of knowledge received through the five senses and it records whatever character has been developed during one's life. The "spirit in man" also records the

personality of the individual and the physical makeup of the whole body!

1. But what happens to the spirit in man at death? Eccl. 12:7.

COMMENT: When we die, all consciousness ceases ( Eccl. 9:5, Psalm 146:4. The physical brain decays. But the "human" spirit, which is not conscious because it has separated from the human brain which makes consciousness possible, returns to God. It is preserved intact by God until the resurrection! It is the one ingredient that was IN humans which makes it possible for individuals to exist again. Therefore the Bible speaks of the dead as being "asleep" in the meantime { Dan. 12:2 }

And so when a person dies, the spirit "recording" returns to God and is "filed" away until the time God will "replay" it to bring about the resurrection of the identical personality to life and consciousness!

To help illustrate how the spirit in man preserves an individual's physical makeup, knowledge, character, personality--actually the whole person--intact until the resurrection, consider how magnetic recording tape is now used to preserve both sound and picture. In sound recording, a voice or the music of an orchestra is electro magnetically recorded. Your naked eye can't see anything that was recorded on the tape, yet it's there. This sound is then reproduced or "resurrected" when played on a tape machine. Until then, however, it makes no sound whatsoever. But when played on the tape machine, the whole sound "comes to life" precisely as it sounded when originally recorded.

## TEST

In the case of a television tape recording, both video ( picture) and audio ( sound) are recorded. It comes "back to life" in the form of a vivid full-color picture with sound when replayed!

All of this seems commonplace today. We have come to take these "modern miracles" for granted as part of everyday life. Then should it seem too difficult for the Creator, miracle-working God to preserve the unique individual that we are by means of the "spirit in man"?

2. What type of body will the dead in Christ receive at the resurrection? Phil. 3:20-21; I Cor. 15:42-44, 52.

COMMENT: The resurrected being, now born a mature child of God, will be composed of spirit, not of matter as the human model was. He will suddenly come alive with his new body. It will seem like the next second from his loss of consciousness at the time of death. He will discover all his memory intact. He will look as he did when he was a physical human being. The character which he built within him will be there. And he will remain alive forever!

Now we see clearly the great purpose the Creator God had in making man UNIQUE among all His physical creation. Mortal man has within his reach the glorious reality of attaining the resurrection of the dead and receiving immortality--forever being a part of the universe as children in God's family!

This multiple choice test is designed to help you review the preceding lesson. It's an enjoyable way of putting to use some of the vital knowledge and understanding you have gained through this lesson.

Select one of the four choices given under each question or incomplete statement. The other three are incorrect--unless stated or indicated otherwise.

Take sufficient time to understand each question or statement, as well as the choices. Try to do as many as you can without referring to the lesson. If you have difficulty deciding on the correct answer, then review the part of the lesson in question.

### 1. God's instruction Book, the Holy Bible,

- A. merely tells us how we function.
- B. only tells us who God is.
- C. is the foundation upon which man builds his own knowledge.
- D. reveals what man is.

### 2. The "soul" of man

- A. is actually spiritual in nature.
- B. is subject to death and decay.
- C. is not the man.
- D. cannot be destroyed.

### 3. What cannot be destroyed by men?

- A. The body.
- B. The soul of man.
- C. The life of man.
- D. The life God restores by a resurrection.

4. Which of the following is not true?

- A. God wants every human being to have a chance to repent and live forever.
- B. God will force us to repent.
- C. Some people will refuse to repent.
- D. Those who die the second death will cease to exist forever.

5. Why did God create man mortal?

- A. So that if we sinned and refused to repent, we would die and simply cease to exist.
- B. So we could not repent of sin.
- C. Because He is unmerciful.
- D. So that incorrigible sinners would experience the same penalty as the angels who sinned.

6. Man was created

- A. without a thinking, reasoning, creative mind.
- B. with a mind patterned after God's own mind.
- C. on the same mental plane as animals.
- D. with the instinct of animal brain.

7. Man

- A. is incomplete with just the human spirit.
- B. cannot comprehend spiritual truth without the addition of God's Holy Spirit to the human spirit.
- C. cannot be begotten of God without the Holy Spirit.
- D. All of the above.

8. Once a person is begotten by God's Spirit, he

- A. becomes wholly composed of spirit.
- B. must begin to grow in the spiritual character of God.
- C. does not need to obey God.
- D. suddenly becomes perfect like God.

9. What must one do to grow in God's character?

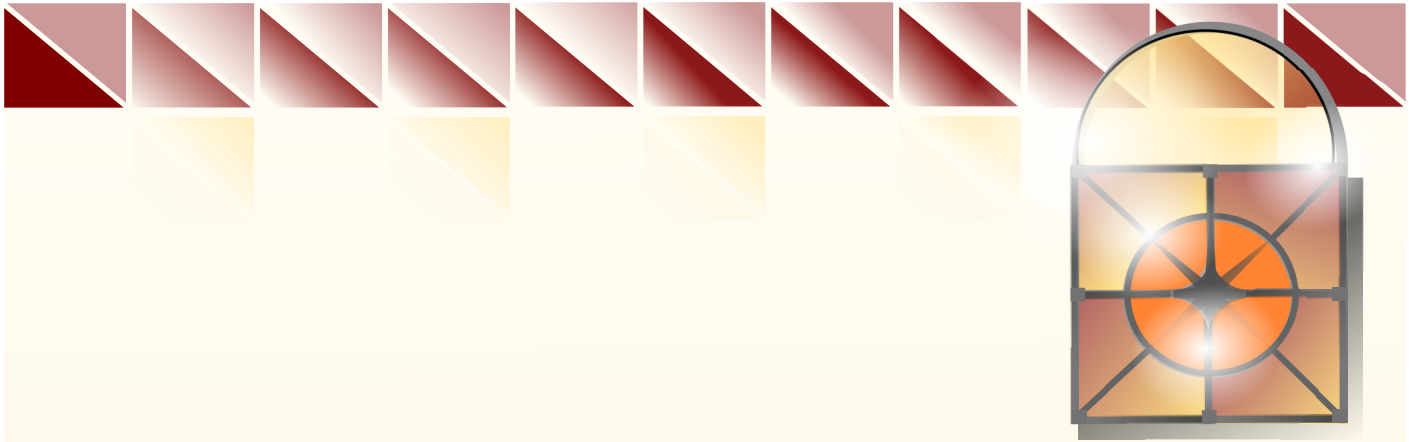
- A. Study and meditate on the Word of God.
- B. Converse with God in daily prayer.
- C. Practice the way of God in his daily life.
- D. All of the above.

10. What else does the human spirit in man do?

- A. It imparts miracle-working power to man.
- B. It imparts the ability to read minds.
- C. It becomes an indestructible record of our form, personality, knowledge and character.
- D. Nothing other than make human intellect possible.

11. What happens to the human spirit when a person dies?

- A. It disintegrates.
- B. It floats around in space.
- C. It joins with some other person's brain at birth.
- D. It goes back to God and is preserved until the resurrection when God will use it to restore the whole individual.



The word of God is adrift, free falling in a world filled with religious confusion. Who will pick it up and live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God?

Church of God -Rocky Mount  
27 Brookledge Lane, Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
Phone:1-888-898-7698 [www.cogrm.com](http://www.cogrm.com)

