

Outline: Becoming a Person of the Spirit

1. Called to Be a Person of the Spirit

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:13)

In 1 Cor. 2:14, Paul says “the **natural** man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God.” This word natural is the word **psuchikos**. It comes from the word **psuche**, which means “soul.” It is the source of our English word “psyche.” So literally the Greek language is calling this type of person “soulish.” It may be a helpful concept to realize that “psychics” operate in the power of soul and not the Spirit.

The Greek word for carnal **sarkikos**, which comes from **sarx**, meaning flesh. Vincent’s Word Studies gives us a little more on this in its notes on 1

Cor. 2:14 when it says “...*the organ employed in the apprehension of spiritual truth characterizes the man.*” I believe this is accurate; if you use your soul to see spiritual truth, you are soulish. If you use your spirit, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, you are spiritual. This is important. While we easily recognize that fleshly behavior is contrary to the Spirit, we have a harder time seeing that the reasonings of the soul are also contrary to God.

We can't enjoy the fellowship of the Spirit if we are not spiritual! A soulish man may display a fine Christian character, but still be incapable of moving in God's purposes because he will not flow in the leading and ways of the Spirit. A pharisaical spirit may develop. Read and reflect on 1 Cor. 2:9-16.

2. Becoming a spiritual (pneumatikos) man: seven keys

2.1. Realize that God's work is done through God's power alone.

2.2. Seek God for fresh fillings of power.

2.3. Wait on God for living words of guidance and instruction.

2.4. Engage in Kingdom living by doing the words of Jesus regardless of

your experience or customs.

2.5. Do not judge situations with your natural senses.

2.6. Let your actions be regulated by love.

2.7. Renew your mind to the realities and possibilities of Kingdom living, and see yourself as an ambassador and agent of the Kingdom in every circumstance.

3. Understanding the Passions and the Emotions of the Spirit

Although we should know better, we can be tempted to think of the Spirit as an influence, not as a Person. We so often talk about the power of the Spirit that we can become blind to the importance of knowing His heart. Do we understand that He not only performs acts of power but expresses His personality?

3.1. Grieving the Spirit

In Ephesians 4 we read that we can grieve (sadden, cause distress to) the

Holy Spirit, particularly through behaviors which are offensive to Him:

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Eph. 4:29-32)

3.2. Attracting and Welcoming the Spirit

By contrast, the Spirit is welcomed and will abide among us when we walk in His ways and do those things which honor Him.