



*“The first man [was] from out of Earth, made of dust (earthly-minded); the second Man [is] the Lord from out of Heaven. Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust (earthly-minded); and as is [the Man] from Heaven, so also [are those] who are of Heaven (heavenly-minded). And just as we have borne the image [of the man] of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image [of the Man] of Heaven.” - I Corinthians 15:47-49 (AMPC)*

Heaven is God’s prepared place for His prepared people. We prepare for Heaven while here on Earth, and then God prepares Heaven for us.

Jesus came from Heaven to Earth to inhabit man with the eternal (Heaven). Man then could leave Earth to inhabit Heaven.

While here on Earth in our human form – flesh – we also have the potential to be our true spiritual selves.

“First” that which is natural; afterward, that which is spiritual.”

It is this law which we see ruling the history of creation and the history of man.

The “spiritual” is the culminating point towards which all of the processes of nature tend. He is (the Holy Spirit) God’s agent on Earth, operating within believers preparing us for Heaven.

The gradual development of our spiritual nature is precisely the culminating point towards which all of nature’s processes tend.

Choosing to become “spiritually-minded” is the highest and best possible outcome of a human life well lived.

Currently, we live in a world designed to test and prove our character.

We may choose the lower animal nature or the higher spiritual nature.

We may live dominated by the present or dominated by that which is eternal, Heaven.

We may live embracing the natural or the spiritual.

If we choose to live by the dictates of our flesh, it can often have devastating results concerning physical deterioration.

Death can be hastened. The death of such a life brings no hope of a “perfected spiritual body free of disease, pain, sickness and decay.”

On the other hand, when we resolutely choose the higher spiritual life and deny those fleshy, sinful tendencies, a new resurrected body is our destiny.

*“And after my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then from my flesh or without it I shall see God.” - Job 19:26 (AMPC)*

To Adam and Eve, God revealed the choice of the natural or the spiritual.

The two trees represented the human, Adamic-life and the spiritual, Jesus-life.

One is earthly and the other is heavenly. One is a living soul and the other is a life-giving spirit.

The spiritual life is built upon the natural while we go through the process of life on Earth.

Jesus revealed this stark contrast when praying in the Garden while His disciples fell asleep.

*“...The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” - Matthew 26:41 (AMPC)*

Our flesh overwhelms our spirit. But we are human for the specific purpose of being inhabited by the spiritual, that which is heavenly.

The “spiritual” empowers and finds opportunity in the conquering of the natural (flesh).

Our natural man (Earth-minded, flesh dominated) is created as a vessel of the spiritual.

We are made not just for Earth, but for Heaven. Our flesh craves the world, our spirit thirsts for the Heavenly.

God is ever seeking to redeem our natural man to be made the willing servant of the spiritual man.

*“For your self - life craves the things that offend the Holy Spirit and hinder Him from living free within you! And the Holy Spirit’s intense cravings hinder your old self - life from dominating you! So then, the two incompatible and conflicting forces within you are your self - life of the flesh and the new creation life of the Spirit.” - Galatians 5:17 (TPT)*

The last Adam – Jesus – became a life-giving Spirit. (Verse 45)

The One sent from Heaven has a race of Heavenly people who are just like Him. (Verse 48)

Once we carried the likeness of the man of dust, but now let us carry the likeness of the Man of Heaven. (Verse 49)

“Now” let us carry the likeness of Jesus – in our flesh, human experience.

*“Yes, God raised Jesus to life! And since God’s Spirit of Resurrection lives in you, He will also raise your dying body to life by the same Spirit that breathes life into you!” - Romans 8:11 (TPT)*

Twice God invaded Earth with a heavenly visitation – Adam and the Last Adam, Jesus.

Both times, His expressed purpose was to deposit the eternal inside man’s spirit.

No question you and I are like Adam – Earthly, sinful, disobedient, unbelieving.

No question we can be like Jesus – the resurrected, glorified Christ.

*“And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].” - Romans 8:30 (AMPC)*

## Discussion Questions:

- While here on Earth in our human form - flesh - we also have the potential to be our true \_\_\_\_\_ selves.
- Choosing to become “spiritually-minded” is the highest and best possible outcome of a \_\_\_\_\_ life well lived.
- To Adam and Eve God revealed the choice of the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_.
- One is a living soul and the other is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.
- The spiritual life is built upon the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The spiritual life empowers and finds opportunity in the conquering of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- God is ever seeking to redeem our natural man to be made the willing servant of the \_\_\_\_\_ man.

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