



THE JOY OF FINDING THE UNSEEN WHO AM I-WHERE IS MY HOME

RSI School of Ministry
DOCTRINAL
Course: JFU201

THE JOY OF FINDING THE UNSEEN: WHO AM I-WHERE IS MY HOME?

Learning How To Live The Christian Life In The Spiritual Realm

Main Scripture Reading: *1 Corinthians 13:11-12 ESV When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. (12) For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

Memory Verse: *2 Corinthians 4:18 ESV as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

Lesson objective: There is great joy when we come face to face with the reality of ourselves. It will be a truth or consequences moment when we can say, “will the real me please stand up.” In this lesson we will look at the difference between the body, the soul, and the spirit of man. We will see the how and why we lie to ourselves about who we are and how to come to the truth of who we are and why we do what we do. We will also see that the Father sees us as we are and is committed to see us conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of all this is to show that our citizenship is not of this world. We are a spirit, that has a soul, and lives in a body, therefore we need to set our affections on the things above.

I. INTRODUCTION:

There always seems to be a little apprehension about attempting new things. I remember in Virginia in High School two other boys and myself missed school one day to go to the swimming hole in Goshen, Virginia to enjoy a hot summer day in the water. Now the other two were great swimmers, a skill that I had not developed. In fact, I had an unhealthy fear of water. But I was not about to tell these guys and appear “un-cool” or be known and called a “scaredy-cat.”

The other two, Mike and Brian, decided that we would go to the swimming place called the “Blue Hole.” I had never been at the Blue Hole therefore I had no idea what to expect. However, big mouth me spoke up that it would be a great idea.

On the way I asked Mike what the “Blue Hole” was. He informed me that the water was so deep that it appeared to be blue like the ocean. This great bit of knowledge only increased my apprehension about the day. He also informed me that there was a large rock rising over 30 feet in the middle of the water hole in which they climbed and dove off.

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“Oh God”, I thought. The only fear I had greater than water was my fear of heights. I was wishing with everything in me that I had not missed school that day. I tried to figure out a way to gracefully back out of this adventure without losing “manly face” before my friends.

Before I knew it, we were at the “Blue Hole.” Mike was right; the water was incredibly blue like the sky. There it stood, right in the middle of the “Blue Hole,” a massive rock that seemed to tower over everything. I asked Mike if it was safe to climb up there. “Of course,” he boldly proclaimed, “I’ve been up dozens of times.” Well, I thought, Mike is shorter than I am, weighs less than I do and is a year younger. If Mike can do it, I can give it a try. Brian was running ahead and had already dove into the water, headed for the huge rock.

I reluctantly confessed to Mike that I could not swim and that it was not a good ideal for me to try and have something happen that would spoil their fun. I said that I would just stay on the bank and watch. Mike would have none of that. “Swimming is easy,” he said, “just move your arms and I will swim beside you and help you to the rock.” I thought, “man, I don’t want to get into the water, and I sure don’t want to climb that rock.”

Mike was insistent and just like I had feared he asked me, “What is the matter, are you chicken or something?” That’s all the motivation I needed. After all, I convinced myself it is not that far to the rock. I was sure that I could splash my way over to it. And that was what I did. I splashed my way over to the rock, working and laboring through the water, fighting with each stroke. I was out of breath by the time I had reached the foot of the rock.

The closeup view of the rock revealed that climbing this was not going to be an easy task. It required a lot of hunting for the right foot and hand holds to slowly maneuver oneself to the top. Fear had gripped me, and my heart seemed to be sitting in the middle of my throat. I had come this far, I was not about to turn back now. I had a plan that would keep me “cool” in the eyes of my friends. I would climb up the rock and then come back down and swim back to shore. I would just go for a walk in the park while they continued their diving and swimming.

I begin the climb. It was fearful to say the least. Mike kept pretty close and kept asking, “How are you doing?” Of course, I answered, “Hey Mike, piece of cake, this isn’t bad at all.” I know that the expression on my face revealed that I was lying but he was climbing ahead of me and could not see the sheer anguish on my face. Finally, after what seemed an eternity, we reached the top of the rock. What a great spot I thought. The river looked especially beautiful from up here. The mountains on each side of the river were breath taking.

Then I heard a large splash. It was Brian as he dove off the rock into the deep blue waters below. He disappeared below the depths of the beautiful sky-blue waters. It seemed he was gone for an eternity and I wondered when he would ascend back to the water’s surface. It was a tremendous and yet frightful sight to behold and one that I had never witnessed before. Before this day, I was smart enough to keep myself out of a situation like this. There he was, Brian was now treading water and shouting for joy over the rush he had just experienced.

Now it was Mike’s turn. He did a picture-perfect swan dive into the water. When he entered the water he barely made a splash. It was like dropping a needle into a glass of water. He too

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disappeared for what seemed a long season and then I saw him cutting through the water like a hot knife through butter. It was truly great to behold it and suddenly I felt a strong sense of jealousy and envy. "If only I had their training and skill and bravery."

Then it happened. Mike and Brian, both treading the cool crystal water below me, began to yell for me to dive in. Suddenly, I felt paralyzed in fear. The thought of diving off this rock was not a part of my plans nor on my bucket list of "things I needed to do before I died." I told the guys that I would just climb back down and swim to shore. Certainly, diving off that rock was "not my thing." I might as well have been speaking to the wind, because Mike and Brian would have nothing else except that I dive from the rock. Mike informed me that it would be close to impossible to climb down the rock without rope support. I scanned the side of the rock for any possibilities and what Mike said seemed to be true. I was stuck with only one way out. Jump!

I inched my way to the edge of the rock. Looking down made the distance seem further and further. "What in God's name did I get myself into?" I informed them again that I could not swim and if I dove into the "Blue Hole," they would have to fish me out. I saw no other way out. I took my glasses off and held them in my hand tightly. The guys were yelling for me to hurry up and dive or jump.

After what seemed to be hours but in reality, was only minutes, I dove off the rock. It was like I was moving in slow motion. As if time was standing still until finally I entered the water. What a rush of many different emotions flooded my mind. I experienced everything from "this is the greatest experience of my life," to "this is the last experience of my life."

I was sure that I would drown and be reported to my parents as dead. Yet at the same time I thought "what a way to go." The fear of the height of the rock was just a distant memory now. I was descending deeper and deeper into my bluish coffin. I could feel my ears pop and with my eyes still open I realized that it was really getting dark as I descended deeper. Then the thought came to me to bow my back. As I did this it seemed that I made a 180-degree turn and I could see light on the surface above me. For the first time since I climbed that rock I felt that I would be okay. What a rush of noise and joy as I broke the surface of the water. Mike and Brian was right there to grab me. They assisted me back to the shore laughing all the way.

They begin to sing my praises over the fool who would dive off a rock over 30-foot high into the "Blue Hole" without the ability to swim. They thought that it was "so cool." The more they patted me on the back the more I stuck my chest out in pride. I told them that it was easier when you have someone going ahead of you showing you the way. The greatest compliment I could give them was when I told them, "Guys, I totally trusted you with my life and believed that you would be there to save me when I came out of the water."

The truth was that I didn't totally trust them, and I fully believed that I would die that day. I did not believe that they could get me out of the water in time. The truth be known, my fear of climbing back down the rock was far greater than diving off the rock into the water. Well, that was over 40 years ago. I have been back to the rock and the "Blue Hole," but only to stand on the shore and retell the story to my family and friends and thank God that He showed grace in the midst of my ignorance and pride.

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Why the story? Simple!

There are many fearful things out there. God is leading His Church into new times, new ways, and at times they are very frightful. By the way, that which seems new is really not new, it is just new to us in our generation. It always helps to have someone that we trust to go ahead of us and lead the way. There are times when the things we face seem to be a life or death situation and it seems no way out but down.

At times we will have to ask, “do we climb down the rock or dive off the rock” were in seems both is a death or death, lose/lose situation. It seems the only choice we have is to decide in what way we prefer to die. Falling down the side of the rock and having bones crushed and dying in severe pain seemed far worse than drowning. It was the lesser of two evils. However, remember that many of these seemingly fearful and deathly situations are entered by our bad choices.

Since becoming a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ I have come to a place of not fearing death. Mankind has held the idea of death in the place of awe and great fear for years. But our Lord Jesus Christ has already plunged through to the opposite side. Our Lord stands on the other side of death crying out to us victory.

Revelation 1:8 ESV “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:17-18 ESV When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, (18) and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

II. ENTERING AND EXITING MANY DOORS

Our Lord Jesus Christ has already passed through the experience of death and was victorious over it and the grave. The message our Lord Jesus gives to the Christian is that since He has passed through the experience and stands on the other side, He declares that death itself is harmless to the believer.

Our Lord is also ready to open the mystery of death to those who are willing to follow Him in it. When we gave our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ in our salvation experience we exited the door of our lives and entered a new door to eternal life. For the Word of God says in Gal.2:20 that we have been crucified with Christ. Within this door lay many other doors for us to exit through. One day each of us will exit the door of our physical life and enter the door to the pure manifested presence of God and stand with our Lord Jesus Christ on the other side of the grave.

Galatians 2:20 ESV I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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An old man of 80 years was asked one day how he was doing. He replied that he personally was doing well but the house he dwelt in was not. He stated that his house, referring to his earthly body, was becoming quite unlivable and he would be moving out one day very soon. But in spite of this, the old man said, “he was just fine.” The old man was teaching a great lesson, one that we will get into in the next chapter.

III. TRUTH ABOUT THE BODY

The old man was teaching a great lesson. It was the same lesson one could learn at a funeral. At a funeral as you stare into the coffin, realize that you are only looking at the old home, the old dwelling place. The person deceased is gone; he is no longer there. The home laying before you is completely empty, void of soul and spirit.

We are a spirit, we have a soul, (mind, emotions, and will), and we live within a body. Although we live in a body, the body is not who we are. I know it is hard to picture a person without his body. That is because we are taught to think that the person and the body are the same. We think in physical concrete terms therefore we see the person as we see the body. The great mystery is to start seeing people apart from their bodies. See people completely separated from their physical bodily home. Start looking at their spirit and soul.

When you see that friend’s body lying in the coffin, is his brain gone? When a person dies does he take his brain with him as he departs the body? No, because he doesn’t need it. The man’s brain belonged to his body, but his mind, (how he thinks), belonged to his person, for it is part of the soul. There is a difference between the soul and the body. Therefore, when a person dies he leaves his body with his soul and spirit. Although the man’s brain remains in his body here on earth, his soul, which including “how a man thinks, leaves the body. The body of man and beast returns to the dust of the earth.

Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 ESV For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. (20) All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 ESV and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Psalms 146:3-4 ESV Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. (4) When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

Daniel 12:1-2 ESV “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. (2) And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

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IV. INVASION OF THE BODY

Think about this. Instead of saying that your body is you, try thinking that your physical body has been invaded. The real you, who you are in truth, has invaded a body. The real you is what lives inside of your physical makeup. Your body is nothing more than a tent or temporary dwelling place for you. One day it will become unusable, either through age or damage and the “YOU” inside will be forced to evacuate, which we call death. But it is not “YOU” that has died, just the temporary body you dwelled in.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 ESV Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (54) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

2 Corinthians 5:1-4 ESV For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, (3) if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. (4) For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Even when we look in the mirror and turn away, we need to ask ourselves, “who or what did we see in that mirror?”

James 1:22-25 ESV But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (24) For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. (25) But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 ESV When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. (12) For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

V. THE STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is an interesting profession. The psychologists do not study the body, the tent, the dwelling place of man. They spend their lives studying the man who lives on the inside of the shell, known as the soul. But how does the inside man gain information about the outside world.

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The man inside the body gains his information from his five senses. Some add more, up to eight senses, but we will stay with the basic five.

1. What he sees
2. What he touches
3. What he smells
4. What he hears
5. What he tastes

Apart from what he can gain from the five senses the inside man is in total darkness to the outside world. An example is that the physical human eyes are but a window for the real person on the inside. Put out those eyes and the inside person has no visual contact with the outside world. Each of the five senses sends information to the brain so that the man inside can use it to interpret data.

Matthew 6:22-23 ESV “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, (23) but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

VI. WHO AM I?

If you and I are not the body in which we live in, then who are we? To answer this, we must first realize the difference between a PERSON and a BODY.

The BODY is composed of the “dust of the earth” and various minerals and water. But the PERSON is composed of three elements, Body, Soul & Spirit. The Soul is composed of three non-physical elements. These three elements combined give the person what we call his PERSONALLY or CHARACTER. We have covered these three non-physical elements before, but I will briefly review what they are and their role.

The three non-physical elements that when combined make up our PERSONALITY and is called the SOUL are...

1. Intellect-also called “the mind” and it is “How I think”
2. Emotion-also called “the heart” and it is “How I feel”
3. Will-also called the “free decision-making process” and it is “How I choose”

We covered the body (the outer man made of the dust of the earth), and the soul (the inner man made of the mind, the emotions, and the will), now we will look at the spirit (the inner-most man).

The spirit was what man communicated and had relationship with God. God breathed life into the first man, Adam. When Adam sinned, he died. He changed in three different ways. First, there was a change in the spirit man. Adam did not die physically, he died spiritually. The pure spirit man, the inner-most man, that communicated with God died and man’s communion with God also died. Secondly, the soul changed. The pure soul, (mind, emotions, and will) changed from righteous to morality. The thinking, emotions, and will of man went from walking with God and doing God’s will to walking without God and doing what is right in our own eyes.

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Thirdly, the body which was created by God without sickness or death, therefore immortal and would have lived forever, became corrupt and mortal. Adam was told that he came from dust and would return to dust. The relationship between God and Adam changed. The sinful condition within the heart of Adam separated man from God.

Genesis 2:7 ESV then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Job 33:4 ESV The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Genesis 2:16-17 ESV And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, (17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:17-19 ESV And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ESV For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

This continued for over 4,000 years until the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth. Before Jesus, who is God, came to earth His name was Word. Word came to earth by way of Mary and the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 19:11-13 ESV Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. (13) He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

John 1:1 ESV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 ESV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 1:18 ESV Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

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Luke 1:30-32 ESV And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (31) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

Luke 1:35 ESV And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

The reason for this was to redeem mankind and re-establish a proper relationship with man and God. Once Jesus died on the cross and raised from the dead and ascended into heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God the Father.

1 Corinthians 15:12-14 ESV Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. (14) And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:19-20 ESV If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (20) But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Acts 7:55-56 ESV But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (56) And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Romans 8:34 ESV Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Ephesians 1:18-22 ESV having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (19) and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might (20) that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (22) And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

Colossians 3:1 ESV If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

All who by faith receives the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior will be saved. That means the Holy Spirit comes into the person's life and quickens, (brings to life) his spirit man. The dead spirit

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within the inner-most man is brought to life, the Holy Spirit dwells in the spirit of man, and man is open once again to a right relationship to God the Father.

Proverbs 20:27 ESV The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts.

1 Corinthians 15:45 ESV Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Romans 5:17-19 ESV For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (18) Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. (19) For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 8:10-11 ESV But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

1 John 5:11-12 ESV And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

It is the operation of these UNSEEN elements (the soul and spirit), that make us what we are. You cannot see these elements although you can see the outcome or result of them. You cannot give someone a pound of love or a box of wisdom. We call these two elements working together not just the PERSONALITY of a man but his soul and spirit. Man is a SPIRIT who has a SOUL and is temporarily trapped in a BODY. Therefore, since man is a spirit who has a soul, most of what a man is remains unseen to us. All we see is the outward dwelling place known as the body. The body, which we see is not us, but it contains the real us. The soul is our personality and it is how we think, feel and choose. However, we connect with God and worship God from our spirit-man.

John 4:24 ESV God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

I was asked, how do we worship in spirit and in truth? When I die to myself and surrender to the will and ways of my heavenly Father, then I am in the place of being in the spirit. In the spirit I cannot sin, because when I am walking in the spirit I cannot fulfill the deeds of the flesh. Worship is to bow the head, the body, the knees, or to lay down before the Lord. However, we can do all of these physical actions in the flesh. If done in the flesh, (the heart not being in a place of surrender), then it is not true worship. But if we die to ourselves in the soulish man, then we have bowed the heart. Therefore, bowing the body is a physical action that is following the soulish action of bowing. This is true Biblical worship in the spirit.

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Romans 8:5-8 ESV For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (7) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:12-14 ESV So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (13) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (14) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:24-25 ESV And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

I have shared what the outward man is made from. Now how did we get the spirit and the soul? We call the soul the inner-man and the spirit the innermost man.

Genesis 1:26-27 ESV Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:7 ESV then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

In these verses we see that it confirms that the outer shell has been formed from the dust of the earth. But the inner-man and the innermost man, the soul and the spirit are the **breath of God**.

Imagine that in the Garden of Eden the image of God and the breath of God walked around in the persons of Adam and Eve. God's image walking around in a suit formed from dust.

No man has seen the image of God at any time. I have the image of God dwelling in me and you have not seen it. You have the image of God in you and I have not seen it. This means that I can't really SEE YOU. I can see your body and learn your behavior patterns, but I have not seen you. It is funny when people think that they know you. They may know your actions, habits, word usage, and expressions, but they have never seen you. The world cannot see or know the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 ESV And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (14) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

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VII. OUT OF SIGHT BUT NOT OUT OF GOD'S MIND

Does it disturb you to be hidden from view? Does it bother you knowing that you really don't know people? Does it disturb you to know that you don't know yourself? All you can see of yourself is the tent that you dwell in. The Word says that we can't know our heart because it will lie to us. But I have great news. Bless God one day we will know everything.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 ESV When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. (12) For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Jeremiah 17:9 ESV The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Romans 3:10-18 ESV as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (11) no one understands; no one seeks for God. (12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (13) "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." (14) "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." (15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; (16) in their paths are ruin and misery, (17) and the way of peace they have not known." (18) "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

A paradox: Look into the mirror and smile and tell me what you see. You will see a pair of eyes and a smile but behind it is a person that you have never seen. All that you see is that dust-formed tent that houses the image of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

VIII. WHY A TEMPORAL HOUSE FOR THE IMAGE OF GOD?

The main reason that you are wearing a dust-formed house is because **you, as a believer in Christ, belong to another world.** You are a spirit-being and the habitat that fits you is in the spirit-world, or the world unseen, which we call heaven. God, who is a spirit, had to put on a dust-formed house, (man's body), to appear to us (Jesus). Unless He had put this earthly house on there would have been no way for Him to reveal Himself as man.

God revealed Himself many times within the Old Testament but always in the context as the Most-High God. But in the New Testament He revealed Himself as God while also being a man. There are 33 verses in the New Testament referring to "**this world.**" There are over 200 verses in the New Testament referring to either "**of the world**" or "**in the world.**" These passages reveal that our home is not here in this world and that all that is in this world is the system that

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attacks our faith and our walk with the Father. The Spirit of the Father is from another world and the spirit of this world is that of our enemy.

I will now let the Scriptures speak for themselves as they reveal what the Father says about this world. This world in which we live has many kingdoms and many things to entice a believer to the place of desire and lust.

A. SATAN TEMPTED JESUS WITH THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD:

Matthew 4:8-10 ESV Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.""

B. GOD THE FATHER HAS PREPARED A KINGDOM FOR HIS CHILDREN:

Matthew 25:31-34 ESV "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. (34) Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

C. THE FATHER KNOWS THE NEEDS WE HAVE IN THIS WORLDLY KINGDOM:

Luke 12:29-31 ESV And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. (30) For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. (31) Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

D. GOD'S PROMISE TO THOSE WHO FORSAKE ALL AND FOLLOW HIM:

Luke 18:28-30 ESV And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." (29) And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, (30) who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

E. THIS WORLDLY KINGDOM REJECTED CHRIST:

John 1:10-12 ESV He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. (11) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (12) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

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F. THE CONTRAST OF TWO DIFFERENT KINGDOMS:

John 8:21-23 ESV So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." (22) So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" (23) He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

G. JESUS WAS THE ONLY LIGHT IN A DARK KINGDOM:

John 9:5 ESV As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

H. THE WORLDLY KINGDOM CANNOT RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT:

John 14:16-17 ESV And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

I. THE WORLDLY KINGDOM HATES CHRISTIANS:

John 15:18-19 ESV "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 17:14-16 ESV I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (15) I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (16) They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

J. THE WORLDLY KINGDOM WILL PERSECUTE CHRISTIANS:

John 16:33 ESV I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

K. THE KINGDOM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS NOT OF THIS WORLD:

John 18:36 ESV Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

L. WE ARE COMMANDED TO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD:

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Romans 12:2 ESV Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

M. SATAN HAS BLINDED THE EYES OF THOSE OF THIS KINGDOM:

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

N. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY IS OVER ALL OTHER AUTHORITY:

Ephesians 1:19-21 ESV and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might (20) that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

O. THOSE WHO ARE LOST WALK ACCORDING TO THE WORLDLY KINGDOM:

Ephesians 2:1-2 ESV And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

P. OUR WAR IS AGAINST THE AUTHORITY OF THIS WORLDLY KINGDOM:

Ephesians 6:10-13 ESV Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Q. CHRISTIANS HAVE NO FRIENDSHIP WITH THIS WORLDLY KINGDOM:

James 4:4 ESV You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

R. CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO NOT LOVE THIS WORLDLY KINGDOM:

1 John 2:15-17 ESV Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the

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desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

IX. TRAPPED BY THAT WHICH IS SEEN

We are commanded to glorify God in our body. At times our body is nothing more than a prison. While my body transports me around throughout this world it is a prison to my soul and spirit. It also acts as a false identifier of who I am. Many will come to a false idea about me because of my height, my weight, my hair, my teeth, or some other seen part that is not the real me, but a carrier of the real me.

Because of the image of God re-established in me through the blood of my Lord Jesus Christ, I (my soul and spirit), have capabilities far greater than my body can serve. This applies to each of you reading this who know the Father through the Son. Your soul and spirit far exceed your body in its capacities of service. That is one reason we get hurt at times. Our emotions and thoughts tell our bodies that we can do more than our bodies can perform. Therefore, even though we are the image of God in soul and spirit, this earthly body temporarily restricts us.

You can only go as fast as your legs can carry you. You can only lift the weight that your body can support. But your soul and spirit will exceed this. In your spiritual thinking and spiritual emotions, you will run faster and lift more. When you believe Paul in Phil.4:13 that you can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you, then your spiritual thinking wants to exceed the capacity of your physical body. But the inner man, the image of God, is temporarily subject to the outer physical man, the body. True faith and walking in the spirit and the supernatural is the only way to work from the inside out and cause the body to do well beyond its capabilities.

One glorious day though we will have a glorified body that has no limits, for it will transcend the natural laws of time, space and matter.

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1 Corinthians 15:44 ESV It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 ESV Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Colossians 3:4 ESV When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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X. BRAIN POWER:

Our soul's thinking alone is limited to our five senses. The brain is a part of the body and can only know the things that come through the five senses. The infinite image of God in us is limited to the finite thinking of this world as long as we are trapped in our body. If you are worried about your IQ and just how smart you are, forget it. Intelligence has to do with the brain and not the mind. Therefore, intelligence deals with the amount of data you have received through your five senses. But in our Lord Jesus Christ we have the Spirit of God, therefore we can know the mind of God. Every Christian is much smarter than they know or anyone else could even guess because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within.

To make this simple. All our brain knowledge from the world is attained by our five senses. However, true knowledge about God, Jesus, salvation, and who we really are is supernatural and comes from God via the Holy Spirit.

The worldly knowledge we obtain through our five senses is limited by several factors. This is why we can have 40 High School seniors in a classroom and everyone of them is in a different level of worldly brain knowledge. This worldly knowledge contains facts and is somewhat true, but not necessarily truth. But the heavenly knowledge from God through the Holy Spirit is limitless and is equally available to all believers. The knowledge from God has one defining quality, it is always absolute truth without any mixture or error.

1 John 2:20-21 ESV But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. (21) I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1 John 2:26-27 ESV I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. (27) But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

John 14:26 ESV But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 16:13 ESV When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

XI. THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME: FINDING GOD'S IMMEDIATE AND MANIFESTED PRESENCE

Remember that we are a spirit being, created in the image of God, which has a soul, which is trapped in a body. This is not our world and it is not our home. Our natural habitat is in the heavenlies before the presence of our Father. It is only natural for us.

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This world is not our natural habitat therefore it is an unnatural dwelling place for us. We long to see God because we are spirit-beings, yet we cannot because we are in this world trapped in a physical body. For the most part we see dimly into the spirit world. We hear a little spiritually, we see a little spiritually, we feel a little spiritually, and we smell a little spiritually. At times the presence of God through our five senses may seem like a lot but it is relative. Compared to the Angels around the throne of God and the Saints who have gone on before, us we really experience only a little bit in the spiritual realm. This causes frustration because none of us likes to be cut-off from our natural habitat. It's like on a long trip or vacation. When we return, one of the first statements we make is, "it's good to be back home." Our true existence is with the Father and we are temporarily cut-off from God's immediate and manifested presence because of our natural man. This is why we have so many songs crying out for "more of God." The average Christian senses there is more of the Fathers presence available but don't know how to access it.

In God's wisdom and grace, He choose to reveal Himself and make Himself known through the Lord Jesus Christ, as a man on earth. This was far better than just to know that He was the all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present God of the Old Testament, out of sight and sometimes out of mind. This is better than what Adam had as he walked in the garden with God. The Old Testament saints worshipped God in His splendor and majesty, yet they were blinded by His glory. Now through our Lord Jesus Christ we can behold the graces of His person and be filled with the glory of His presence. It is only as people receive Christ can they ever hope to see God.

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Colossians 1:27 ESV To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Romans 5:2 ESV Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. (17) For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (18) as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

XII. FRAILITY OF THAT WHICH IS SEEN:

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Our body is completely separated from the real man inside us. The inner man is the soul and the innermost man is the spirit. The physical man, the body, though separated from the soul and spirit, and formed from the dust of the earth, is wonderfully and fearfully made.

Psalms 139:13-17 ESV For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. (14) I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (15) My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. (16) Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (17) How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

The human body was made to last for centuries. Adam lived to be more than 900 years old. Most people lived between 800 and 950 years at this time. Then, because of sin, God shortened man's years. The Father gave man three score and ten years or 70 years under the law. But as the church learns to live in the Spirit in the fullness then it will be natural for man to walk in the law of the Spirit. The law of the Spirit frees us from the laws of sin and death.

Romans 8:2 ESV For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:10-11 ESV But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

John 6:63 ESV It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 ESV who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

It is the law of sin and the law of death that causes us to grow old and face the sicknesses, diseases, hurts, and pains of old age. But we will not always be this way. People will begin to embrace the law of the Spirit by faith and the years of man will increase from the three score plus ten years or seventy years. Persecution of great multitude is coming on the church. Many will think it is a new thing, but it is just a repeat of the old.

Matthew 5:11-12 ESV "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (12) Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 23:29-31 ESV "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, (30) saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in

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shedding the blood of the prophets.’ (31) Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.

Luke 17:26-30 ESV Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. (27) They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. (28) Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, (29) but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— (30) so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Acts 7:51-52 ESV “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (52) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

2 Timothy 3:8-9 ESV Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. (9) But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 ESV What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. (10) Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.

Ecclesiastes 7:9-10 ESV Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools. (10) Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

But until the days come when history once again repeats itself, our outer-man is quite frail and will return to the dust quickly. Don’t feed it and it will quit. Don’t cloth it in the winter and it will freeze. Expose it to disease and unless treated it will die from corruption. Hit it to hard and it can be fatally damaged. Although the body, the outer shell, is wonderfully and fearfully made it is quite fragile and requires care if it is to last any time at all in these days.

But one day by faith and the great outpouring of the Spirit, the Law of the Spirit will be manifest, and the years of the outer man will increase as in the days of those in Genesis. However, the persecution that Moses experienced, David experienced, the prophets experienced, the disciples of our Lord experienced, and finally that which our Lord Jesus Christ experienced, will return in force against the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. The church at that time will see as Abraham a city that was made by the hands of God and set their eyes on the eternal instead of the temporal.

Romans 4:17-25 ESV as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”— in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. (18) In hope he believed against hope, that

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he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” (19) He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. (20) No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, (21) fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. (22) That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” (23) But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, (24) but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, (25) who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Hebrews 11:8-10 ESV By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (9) By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. (10) For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hebrews 13:14 ESV For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Colossians 3:2-4 ESV Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

There is great joy when we come face to face with the reality of ourselves. It will be a truth or consequences moment when we can say, “will the real me please stand up.” My prayer is that as you studied this lesson you learned the difference between the body, the soul, and the spirit of man. I hope that you understood how we see ourselves is many times very different from the way the Father sees us. The heart of the Father is to see us conformed into the image of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The one aspect of this lesson that I hope all who reads it will get is that our citizenship is not of this world. We are a spirit, that has a soul, and lives in a body, therefore we need to set our affections on the things above. We are only passing through.