

## **Worship Him in Spirit and Truth**

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:23-24

## **GOAL**

Our goal is to come into a better understanding of what it means to worship in spirit and truth and how we can become more sensitive in our fellowship with the Lord.

In order for us to cultivate a deeper intimacy with the Lord, I believe it is important to be able to understand that we have an organ of which I the prime place for such intimacy and that I our human spirit.

Along with having an understanding of our possessing a human spirit is essential that we come to know its function, its laws, and its sensitivity as well as how together with the Holy Spirit we worship in spirit and truth.

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*John 4:23-24*

As we know the Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring us to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God. The Word of God is a door by which we have contact with Him and share His life, scripture is quite clear about this. David said: *“I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to thy name for thy lovingkindness and thy truth; for thou has magnified thy Word according to al thy name” (Psalm 138:2)*

Psalm 40:7 tells us this about the Lord Himself, *“Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of me.”* Oh, the desire we have to live in Him, sense His presence, experience His love, the majesty of His person and to taste the inner sweetness of His very reality. *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul for you, Oh God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” (Psalm 42:1)*

But God is always first, always initiating, always calling us into intimacy with Him. In fact, scripture teaches that before a sinful man can think a right thought about God there must be a work of enlightenment done within him. This is what Christian theology teaches:

- The doctrine of “previant grace” which simply means that before a man can seek God, God must have first sought him.
- God is always the initiator.

Look at His initiation in Genesis 3 with Adam. It is the same with us. He is always knocking, almost beckoning, always desiring communion with us, but we must respond. This is our responsibility and our privilege. We must respond to His secret drawing in order to cultivate our goal which is intimacy with our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and our companion and teacher, the Holy Spirit. As the psalmist says, “Deep calleth unto deep.” The depth of our spirit calls for the depth of His presence and nothing less will satisfy this longing.

Now, we must remember that God is a person in the most reverent sense and, as such can be known as any other person. He thinks, He feels, He wills, He suffers, and He can be pleased. This is an incredible and glorious reality that our God can be known and desires to be so.

It is, as you know, inherent in personality to be able to know other personalities. But, a full knowledge can’t be achieved in just one encounter. People range with each other from a casual acquaintance to intimate friends and this is experienced in the same way with your relationship with God.

Now, He has equipped us and created us for consistent communion with Him. The Word of God unfolds this truth through many passages, such as, “The true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.” We know much about worshipping in truth, but we are going to explore together how we worship in both spirit and truth.

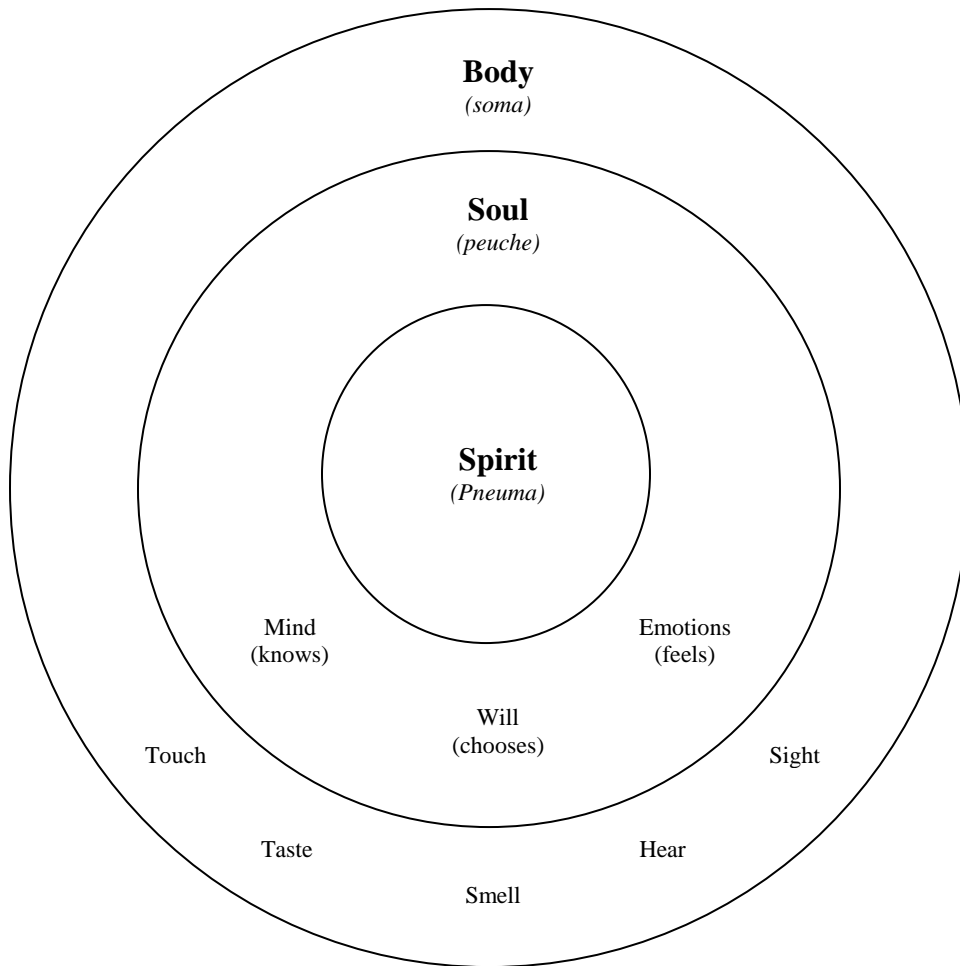
In Chapter 3 of Genesis, we find the Lord God was accustomed to walking with man in the garden in the cool of the evening. “What a glorious picture! But it is an important thing to know at this point that in order to commune with God... in order to hear Him...

man, unique from all creation, needed to have a faculty that would give him that capacity. A spiritual relationship requires a spiritual faculty in order for oneness to take place.

## Biblical Model of Man

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit, and soul and body be preserved complete without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”  
1 Thessalonians 5:23

### Man A Tri-unity



“But when it comes to the matter of soul and spirit not only are these two so distinctly different words use, but these are said to be separable with either perishing and each is vested with its own responsibility, set of faculties, and destiny.”

(T. Austin Sparks, What is Man)

As you can see, man is a tri-unity. Scripture tells us, *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, May your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

I personally believe that there are fewer things more important than this division of the soul and spirit and how they appropriately interact in our learning to cultivate intimacy with God. I believe as you continue this study that this truth will become more and more significant to you.

Other passages, as you know, also make this differentiation. Hebrews 4:12 is a familiar one, *“For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

As T. Austin-Sparks says in his book, What is Man?:

“But when it comes to the matter of the soul and spirit not only are these two distinctly different words used (peuche and pneuma) but these are said to be separable without either perishing and each is vested with its own responsibility, set of faculties and destiny.”

As you can see, each kingdom is governed by and limited to its own nature. We are now spiritual people in a spiritual kingdom in need of spiritual faculties to apprehend spiritual realities. Makes sense, doesn't it? In fact, the same terms to express the knowledge of God are used to express the knowledge of physical things.

## Spiritual Perception

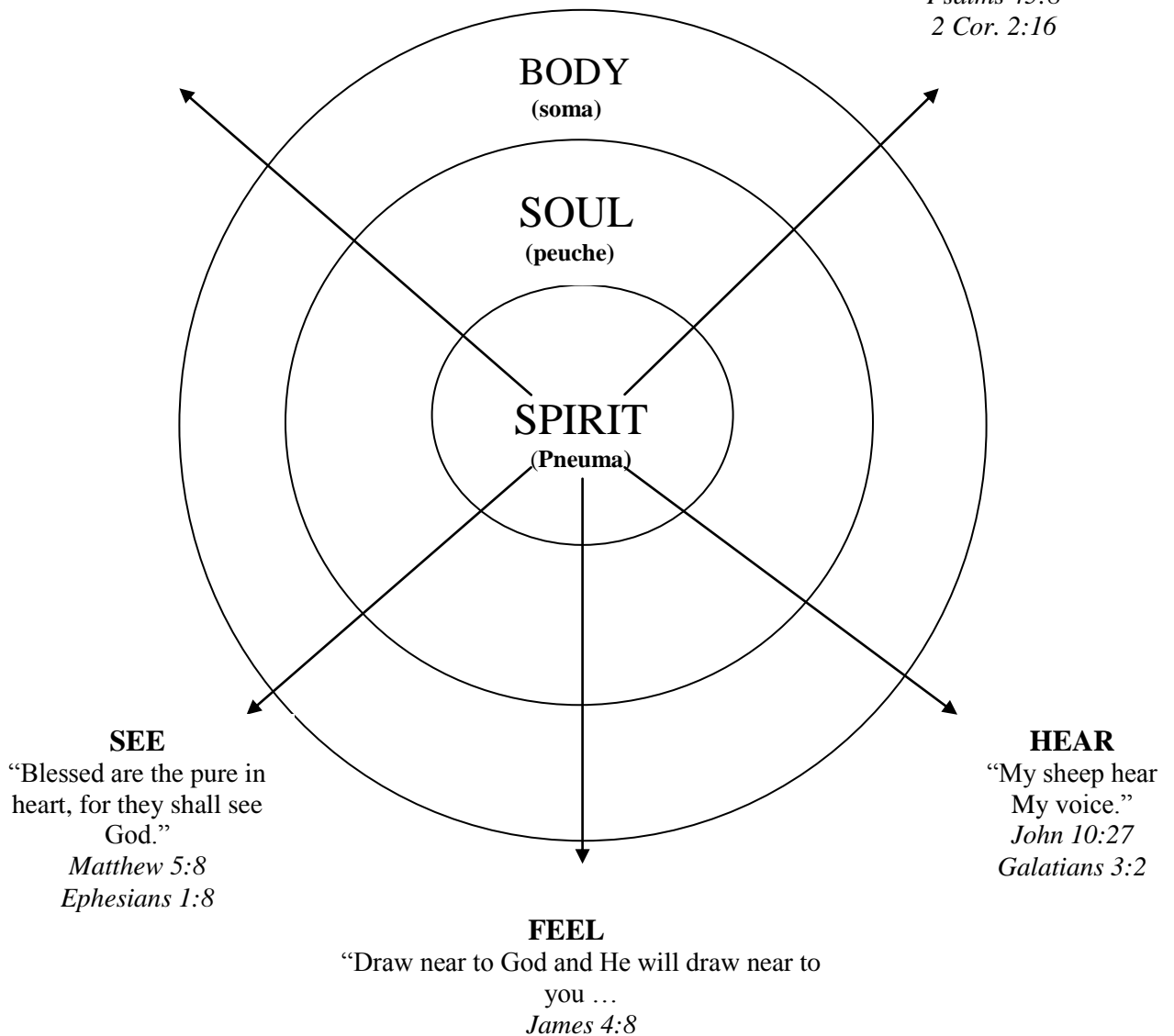
“We apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties given us for the purpose, and we possess spiritual faculties by means of which we can know God and the spiritual world if we will obey the Spirit’s urge and begin to use them.”

### TASTE

“Oh taste and see that the Lord is good.” *Psalms 34:8*

### SMELL

“All Thy garments smell of myrrh and aloes, and cassia”  
*Psalms 45:8*  
*2 Cor. 2:16*



“A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us altogether within reach of our inner-selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting our response to His Presence. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality.” (A. W. Tozer, Pursuit of God)

This diagram helps visualize the reality of spiritual perception that the Word of God teaches what we have and where it is located: “*Oh taste and see that the Lord is good*” (Psalm 34:8). “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8); “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*” (James 4:8); “*My sheep hear My voice*” (John 10:27); “*All thy garments smell of myrrh and aloes and cassia*” (Psalm 45:8).

So, as you see we apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties given us for that purpose and we possess spiritual faculties by which we can know God and the spiritual world.

A.W. Tozer says in his classic book, Pursuit of God, that if we really want to follow the Lord we must learn to be “other worldly.” So you see, our emphasis and priority needs to be on cultivating spiritual sensitivity.

But, what happens to us in that we live in a physical world, and because of this world of physical sense chokes out the life in the spirit. The media shouts, is clamorous and noisy. It shouts for supremacy and we become very easily trapped in its claws... the sad part is that when we are in that state we are not aware that we are unhealthy and have lost sense of the final reality. The world of the physical does not appeal to faith. It considers faith quite foolish. The world of the physical then triumphs. The visible becomes the enemy of the invisible; the temporal of the eternal. This is the curse of the Adamic race.

But, we are left with the Adamic effects and the whole process of redemption is to undo that which was done at the Fall. We must learn to cultivate such spiritual perception as to see both realities equally well and to know which one had eternal value and which one will govern our lives.

The Kingdom of God lies all about us, enclosing us, and embracing us. God Himself is here waiting for our response to His presence. This eternal world will come alive as we reckon upon its reality. This is faith, this is what is required and this is what we want to cultivate during this study.