**Journey Into Wholeness “*Seek peace and pursue it” Ps 34:14***

**Session 2: “UNIFIED IN SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY”**

***Overview: This session will cover the triune nature of our being and God’s purpose and call to transform and unify our soul and body with our spirit and the Spirit of God.***

1. **MAN IS CREATED AS A TRIUNE BEING**

***“The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground (body), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (spirit); and the man became a living soul (soul).” Genesis 2:7***

***“May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23***

Mankind was created by God as a “triune being” having three parts: spirit, soul and body.

1. **Spirit** is the innermost part of man that consists of the life of man (***“the breath of life”***) where we can have intimate communion and fellowship with God. For Christians, man’s “spirit” is the place where God’s Holy Spirit dwells and where we receive light/illumination from the divine (the unseen world).

***“In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind...This (The Word) was the true Light that enlightens every person coming into the world.”******John 1:4; 9***

***“The spirit of a person is the lamp/light of the Lord.” Proverbs 20:27***

***“Let us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule” Genesis 1:26***

In Session 1 we discussed how God is Light and the preeminent light-bearer, and He created us to be light-bearers “in His image” to rule on the earth. The spirit of man is the receptor of God’s light and life where we can receive and relate to God who is light and life.

1. **Soul** is the inner part of man that consists of the mind, will, emotions and the personality of each person. The “soul” is the bridge between the “spirit” (unseen) and the “body” (the seen).

God created capacities in the soul of mankind that are also “in His image” that include man’s personality, conscience, will, intelligence, awareness of right and wrong, etc. There are elements in both man’s spirit and soul that are imaged in the likeness of God.

1. **Body** is the outer part of man that consists of the five senses – our ability to see, hear, smell, taste, and feel. The body is the connection to the natural world (the seen world). God is Spirit (***John 4:24***) so the image of God in man does not refer to man’s body or physical likeness.
2. **MAN IS CREATED TO RULE BY HIS SPIRIT**

***“Let us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule” Genesis 1:26***

The God of Light eternally lives as a Spirit in the unseen reality of the heavenlies, but He created the seen world of creation. God’s plan in creation was to rule the seen world (creation) from the unseen heavenly realm through His relationship to man.

God gives man a material body to operate in the material earth, but man was called to rule through His spirit – the place of divine connection with God. God wanted His invisible and divine nature to be exhibited and manifest in the seen realm through His relationship and connection with man. Man was divinely called and purposed to rule on God’s behalf and he was given authority to administrate and execute the Lord’s divine will on the earth.

***“God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it (rule).” Genesis 1:28***

God created Adam so that His spirit (the place of connection and relationship with the Lord) would reign supreme over the soul and body, but that dynamic is dependent on His soul and body being subservient.

1. **MAN DISOBEYED AND BECAME DARKENED**

God entrusted man with a tremendous responsibility. The most dangerous and risky thing God did was to give man a soul that could freely choose, and the ability of man to work in relationship with His plan or not.

***“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Genesis 3:13***

***“Through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind.” Romans 5:12***

When the fall happened and Adam, in his soul, chose with his will to disobey and rebel against God, his spirit was darkened. God created man to reveal His light and life and now man was sunk down in spiritual darkness and death.

The spirit of man became dead to God, and man’s soul and fleshly body became dominant. Mankind became ruled by their lusts and soulish thoughts and emotions. Mankind, now separated from God in his spirit, became a being bound to the desires and cravings of his soul and body. Man’s spiritual dignity, light, and life was essentially lost.

***“We, too, all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh (body) and of the mind (soul), and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest.” Ephesians 2:3***

At “The Fall,” the dominion and authority to rule, which was given by God to man, was handed over to Satan, and Satan then became the ruler of this world (***John 12:31***). We must see that God’s plan of redemption is not restricted to God providing salvation and forgiveness to mankind through Christ’s work, but also for the rulership of this world to be put back into its rightful place – in the hands of God and man.

1. **JESUS SAVES AND RESTORES MAN**

Jesus had to come and fulfill what no other man could do – restore mankind to God. The redemptive work of Jesus also deals the decisive blow to Satan and His Kingdom.

***“Having cancelled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (the cross).” Colossians 2:14-15***

Jesus, at the cross, paid the penalty for rebellious mankind and provided salvation and forgiveness for all those who will trust and put their faith in Him. Additionally, God defeated and triumphed over Satan and all the evil powers through the cross of Jesus Christ. Only the perfect man could succeed in getting the job done – the God-man Jesus Christ.

Each believer is saved and called with the purpose to be conformed to ***“the image of the Son”***:

***“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of the Son (the image of God now perfected in Jesus), so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” Romans 8:29***

The image of God in man is now restored and perfected in Jesus Christ, the Son, and we are called to become “little Christs” (the meaning of being a Christian). In this sense, Jesus is called to ***“be fruitful and multiply”*** the heavenly image of God in us as the eternal purpose of God for mankind is renewed and restored.

***“It is written: ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul.’ The last Adam (Christ) was a life-giving spirit…The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy one, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly one, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.” 1 Corinthians 15:45-49***

***“If anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17***

Jesus Christ is the head of a whole new heavenly creation, and we are a part of it. Now each believer, along with the corporate Body of Christ as a whole, has received the heavenly call to reveal God’s heavenly world/reality/Kingdom (the seen revealing the unseen world of God). We are citizens of heaven (***Philippians 3:20***) and born in the image of Christ (the head of God’s new creation), as a part of God’s heavenly household (***Ephesians 2:19***).

As believers “in Christ,” we are called to walk in the Spirit and in intimate fellowship/relationship with the Lord for the purpose of being “light-bearers” and those administrating and revealing God’s eternal and heavenly Kingdom here in time and space. In this period, as we exist in the interim time when the Kingdom of God has been inaugurated but not consummated, we are being trained and raised up for our eternal calling in the New Heaven and Earth (***Revelation 21***).

1. **THE CALL TO CONVERSION IN OUR SOUL**

***“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17***

The new birth is the work of the Holy Spirit coming and dwelling in our spirit. When we are saved, our spirit is born again, and we are alive again to God as the Spirit comes and fills our spirit.

After we are saved and born again, the process of conversion begins.

1. The word **“conversion”** comes from the **Greek** word **“epistrephō”** which means **“to turn about”**. In the **Hebrew** the word translated means **“to turn back or return.”** It can also be translated **"restore,"** as in ***Psalm 23:3***, ***"He restores my soul."*** The picture the Bible paints of the word “**conversion”** is to return to what we were initially created to be. Conversion describes the transformation that takes place when we accept Christ – turning from our old life and being sanctified and transformed into our new life in the Spirit.

The Christian life is the call to be converted/restored and transformed into the image of Christ. When we are saved our spirit is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so we don’t need transformation there. We need transformation and conversion in our soul. It is primarily in the realm of the soul where the work of transformation takes place.

Again, the soul is related to our personality, our thinking/mind, our emotions and affections, and our will and power to choose and make decisions. The soul is the gatekeeper of your person (the mediator between your spirit and body) and the soul is where the battleground takes place – in your mind, will, and emotions.

***“Therefore I urge you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove/choose what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”* *Romans 12:1-2***

The Holy Spirit indwelling in your spirit wants to influence your soul to ***“choose what the will of God is and that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*** But your soul must be trained and converted to choose the will of God and submit to the things of the Spirit and Christlikeness. As we grow and are transformed in the realm of the soul, we “***present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice”*** as our soul chooses to commit your body for holiness, righteousness, and the things of God.

***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind.” Luke 10:27***

The great commandment is to love God with our whole being – spirit, soul, and body. True biblical discipleship is the commitment of one’s spirit, soul, and body to the Lord. The journey into wholeness is the journey into complete restoration and transformation in all areas of our person.

1. **UNIFIED IN SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY**

***“The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected/whole in unity.” John 17:22-23***

God is calling us to be light-bearers and those fashioned into the image of His Son. God has given us His own Spirit and His own light and glory so that we would be transformed and unified in wholeness in our spirit, soul and body.

This is the transformational work we are called to and the journey into wholeness– to unify our soul and body with our spirit. Wholeness/shalom is living with the beautiful balance and unity of the Lord flowing through our spirit, soul, and body. God wants to set us free into the freedom of the sons and daughters of God, and the freedom and blessings of our spirit man becoming dominant over our soul and body. Many of us live under the burden of having never experienced true freedom and liberty from our carnal souls and bodies. The Spirit wants to be empowered and to become dominant in our lives, so that we can experience the ***“fruits of the Spirit”*** (***Galatians 5:22-* 23**) and the abundant life God has ordained for each of us (***John 10:10***).

***“The one who believes in Me, as the Scriptures said, ‘From his innermost being (our spirit) will flow rivers of living water (the Holy Spirit) .” John 7:38***

The Lord promises that the Holy Spirit and all of His positive and godly influences will gush forth like a mighty, rushing river from our spirit and into our soul and body. Our goal is to learn to allow the Spirit of God to flow from of our spirit and into our soul and body with greater power and effectiveness.

***“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. We all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:17-18***

The freedom we want to experience is in the Spirit of God and being transformed into the image and glory of Christ. In this class, we will learn to identify the areas in our soul that needs to be changed and transformed, and, also, some of the ways we can positively cooperate and align ourselves with the Spirit of Christ for transformation. The Lord wants us to live from the “inside out” and to learn to nourish wellness and wholeness in our spirit, soul, and body.

The ***Journey into Wholeness*** is about biblically and intentionally giving our spirit, soul, and body to the Lord, so that our **“*joy may be made full”*** (***John 17:13***) and so we can accelerate growth and experience more fulfillment, freedom, and fruitfulness in our walk with the Lord.

Christ-like transformation is a life-long journey. Yet, we can advance faster as we understand the process of growth and how to use the tools the Lord has provided for our blessing and benefit. It all starts with a commitment to be transformed and faith that God will do so much more than we can think or imagine. As we move forward in the class - step out, put the work in, believe for more, and position yourself in God’s grace.

***“To Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21***