



Two Natures

By Marcus Hansen

In this study we are going to explore and examine the two very different natures of man, our carnal nature and our spiritual nature and their role in our lives. The intent is to help us to understand who we are and why we react to circumstances in certain ways. We will also explore what we can do to become more aligned with God's purpose for our lives in order to enter into our inheritance.

It is particularly important to understand what the Bible has to say about this subject because there are many "modern thinkers" who are voicing their opinions as to who we are, where we came from and where we are going. A while ago there was a short clip in the local newspaper that a modernist wrote and it is summarized as follows: *Most of us stumble through our lives without understanding or even trying to understand who we are or why we are here. After much reading and studying I have come to the conclusion that somehow life is an illusion. If we look beyond our self-imposed limitations we recognize that what science calls energy, what philosophy calls principle and what religion calls spirit is the same thing, the ground being from which we emerge and return.* This type of thinking and reasoning is very prevalent in our colleges and

universities today. This is why it is essential, as Christians, that we know and understand what the Bible has to say about this subject so that we do not become confused.

Turn to the first book of the Bible and begin reading at Genesis 1: 26 *"And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."*

There are a number of important points to note in this passage.

1. God's desire was to make man in the image of Himself,
2. man was to have dominion over all other creatures that God had created,
3. men and women were to multiply by having children to replenish the earth and
4. man was to subdue God's creation.

Subdue used in this context is a

very interesting choice of words. It comes from the Latin word "subducere, meaning to draw from below, or as the Oxford dictionary describes, "overcome, quieten, or bring under control." This was God's desire; this was God's plan for man. It was to overcome the earth, to quieten it, to control it. If we consider the condition the world is in today, the abuse of God's creation, the decline of the moral fabric of society etc., we see that mankind is not fulfilling God's original intent. Continuing in Genesis 2: 7 we read: *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."* Clearly it was God that created us from the elements of the earth. Man did not evolve from nothing. God intentionally thought, deliberated and subsequently created man. *"This is*

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what God the LORD says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it” Isaiah 42:5, NIV. What God did was to impart LIFE unto Adam by His breath.

Three years ago we visited Washington DC. While there, we visited a few of the Smithsonian museums. We saw many sculptures of important people carved out of marble. These sculptures are a likeness of a particular person, but they are not that person. They have no life in them. When God created man, He breathed into his nostrils and man became a living person, a living SOUL! It took the breath of God to make the physical form of man into a living being, for all “LIFE” emanates from God and God alone. Man’s body has no life in it without the SOUL. Nowhere in the Bible is there any indication that humans possess a LIFE without the SOUL. When the SOUL departs from the BODY, LIFE also departs and the physical body dies.

From these scriptures, one could categorize man as being dualistic, BODY and SOUL: BODY being the visible, SOUL being the invisible. We all comprehend what our physically BODY is, but what about our SOUL?

The Bible often uses two different English words for SOUL to describe what is meant in the original Hebrew and Greek language. In the King James Version, the Greek word for SOUL is translated as LIFE and the Greek word for LIFE is often translated as SOUL. For example: “For the LIFE of the flesh is in the blood” Leviticus 17:11 and: “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own SOUL?” Matthew 16:26. The word LIFE used in Leviticus 17:11 and the word SOUL used in Matthew 16:26 are both translated from the same Greek work *psuche* which means SOUL, SOUL LIFE or ANIMAL LIFE of man. From

these two scriptures we also see that the authors are writing about the non physical part of man’s being; that part of us as human beings, we can’t see, touch or examine under a microscope. In other words, it is what characterizes YOU as an individual.

Reading Genesis 2:7 alone, it would appear that we are a dualistic being, BODY and SOUL. It is dangerous to make an assumption based on only one scripture. Turning to I Thessalonians 5:23 “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and pray God your whole SPIRIT, and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Apostle Paul clearly distinguishes between the SPIRIT, SOUL and the BODY. Another scripture: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of SOUL and SPIRIT, and of the joints and marrow (or in most modern translations, BODY) and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” Hebrew 4:12.

Clearly the Bible treats man as a triune being, (meaning three in one), BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT. Each is separate and distinctive from each other. You know what your BODY is. You can see it with your eyes, you can touch it, feel it and standing in front of a mirror you see an image of your BODY. Your BODY is visible to anyone who comes close to you. However, that is not the case with your SOUL or your SPIRIT. They are both invisible and have their own distinctive nature and that is what this article is dealing with - the nature of the SOUL of man and the nature of the SPIRIT of man.

The SOUL is man’s self. It is the home of your intellect, personality, individuality, will, emotion, conscious, etc. Alienated from God, the Bible speaks of the SOUL as being carnal. “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even

as unto babes in Christ. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” I Corinthians 3:1&3. Today the word carnal is seldom used as it is considered to be an old English word. The Canadian Oxford Dictionary describes carnal as follows: “CARNAL, 1. Pertaining to the fleshly nature or to bodily appetites; sensual; sexual. 2. Pertaining to the flesh or to the body; not spiritual; hence, worldly. (Middle English from the Late Latin *carnalls* from *caro carnis* flesh).” We could substitute words like, “fleshly” or “worldly” as is often seen in many of the new translations of the Bible. However, a more all encompassing word to describe the character of man’s nature that by birth is fleshly, sensual, sexual and worldly is his “SOUL NATURE.” The elements of the SOUL NATURE do not function alone, they require input from somewhere. For example, in order to make a choice, you need to have something to choose from. In order to express emotion, you need some input to respond to. This input comes through either the BODY or the SPIRIT of man. The BODY is constantly sending messages to our SOUL, by means of the five senses; **seeing, hearing, taste, touch and smell.** We can thank God for the five senses, as they prevent us from endangering ourselves in many situations. You put your hand near a hot stove and your sense of feeling sends a message saying, ‘it is hot’ so you pull your hand back so you don’t burn yourself. You are driving down a country road and you see a curve in the road approaching so you slow down and turn with the curve in the road to prevent going into the ditch. You take a carton of milk from the fridge and smell it because you think it may be old and sure enough it smells foul so you discard it. However, other circumstances may cause a person to respond in other ways. When someone contemplates murder, they

are reacting to circumstances that caused them to hate someone to the point they desire to kill that person. They were obviously offended by that person and their feelings were hurt, or the perpetrator harmed them in some manner. Where do these thoughts of the heart come from? Remember the SOUL only responds to input from either the five senses or the SPIRIT of man. *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know”* Jeremiah 17:9. Society has laws that deem murder unacceptable. As Christians we know that this is unacceptable behaviour because God’s laws forbid it and the Holy Spirit brings conviction if it is contemplated. We conclude therefore that our SOUL stands between two worlds, the BODY on the one hand and man’s SPIRIT on the other.

In many ways, the BODY and the SPIRIT of man are competing against each other to attract the SOUL’s attention and gain control. *“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts (desires), which war against the soul”* I Peter 2:11 KJV. The Amplified Version reads as follows: *“Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers and exiles [in this world] to abstain from the sensual urges (the evil desires, the passions of the flesh, your lower nature) that wage war against the soul.”* Remember that when God created man He made him out of the dust of the earth, so man is earthly by nature. Therefore, the BODY is the lowest part of man. *“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions”* Galatians 5:16-17 NLT. It is clear from this scripture that man’s SOUL NATURE (carnal,

human, fleshly sinful nature) works against the SPIRIT of man.

Many in the secular world do not believe that we have a SOUL or a SPIRIT. But, we have already read how God created man and he became a living SOUL. In regard to man’s spirit, here are a few of scriptures to set the record straight. *“The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him”* Zechariah 12:1. *“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God”* I Corinthians. 2:10-11. *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”* Romans 8:16. This verse can be paraphrased as follows: The Spirit of God communicates with our human spirit that we are God’s children. That is actually what happens; that part of the God-Head, the HOLY SPIRIT, has the ability to communicate with the spirit of man and reveal to man that he is a child of God. Oh Glory to God. (Note that in most cases in the King James Version when spirit is spelled with a small ‘s’, it is referring to man’s spirit, and when it begins with a capital ‘S’ it is referring to the Holy Spirit.)

Now that we have established the natures of man let us move on to something that is very interesting. Genesis 1:26-27 says that God created man in His own Image and His Likeness. Previously we read in Genesis 2:7 how God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostril and he became a living SOUL. Following this God gave the first commandment, verse 17: *“But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt*

surely DIE.” The Bible records that Adam’s wife Eve was deceived by the devil, who was disguised as a serpent, to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree. She then gave the fruit to Adam. Adam knew that the moment he ate of the forbidden fruit he would die. Notice they did not immediately die a natural death. When God told man that if he ate of the forbidden fruit he would “surely die” He meant not only that man would eventually die physically, but also his spirit would die. From that point forward, the spirit of man had practically no influence and the SOUL of man occupied the throne of man.

From the physical aspect of man, the scriptures record that Adam lived until he was 930 years old. However from the beginning it was not God’s intention that man should ever die physically or spiritually, for man was made in the likeness and image of God. God had no beginning and has no end. When Moses asked God who shall I say sent me, God replied: **“I AM THAT I AM”** Exodus 3:14. The word “AM” here indicates God is always in the present! When the writer of the book of Hebrews referred to Melchisedec, the High Priest, he wrote: *“Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God”* Hebrews 7:3. Melchisedec was made like unto the Son of God, who had no beginning of days nor end of life. Likewise man was intended to live forever being he was made in the likeness of God.

Unfortunately Adam and Eve chose to disobey God’s command and as their descendants we have been suffering the consequences ever since. Biblical history points to the fact that something very dramatic happened to the nature of Adam and Eve after they disobeyed God. Though created to have the nature of God, we see a new nature emerging in their descendants. Consider their two sons, Cain and Abel.

*“When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.” One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields”. And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and **killed him**” Genesis 4:2-8 NLT. Anger and murder are attributes of Satan. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, Satan’s nature was passed on to man’s nature and man became carnal. Jesus said: “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” Matthew 15:19. Something terrible befell mankind when Adam and Eve committed that sin! “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” Romans 5:12. From this point forward man had great difficulty in obeying God because he lost his ability to hear the voice of the Spirit of God. Thus the spirit of man had great difficulty in being able to influence the soul to do what was right. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” James 1:14-15. We can conclude therefore that man’s spirit became deaf or dead to the voice of God. History records that it was all downhill for mankind from that time forward. “And God saw that the*

wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” Genesis 6:5. Because of the wickedness of man, God was prepared to destroy all earthly life, both man and animal, but for Noah. Verse 8: “Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” so Noah became a saviour to his household while God destroyed all the rest of mankind in the great flood.

Interestingly, after the fall of Adam and Eve, God provided an avenue back to Himself. When God came to visit Adam and Eve in the cool of the day, He could not find them for they had hid themselves, having become aware of their nakedness. Then God slew an innocent animal and its blood flowed into the ground. With this sacrifice of an innocent animal God made a covering of the skin of the animal and covered their nakedness, Genesis 3:21. This is the first record of an animal sacrifice in the Bible and it was offered by the hand of God. So the story of atonement and sacrifice begins to unfold throughout the Word of God. “So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.” When you find “cherubims” in the Bible they represent the grace, love, mercy and forgiveness of the Lord God. Thus, a way was provided for the sinful man to draw near to God.

The Old Testament records that time after time, though there were occasions when man attempted to obey God, he eventually slid back into a degenerated life of sin, degradation and disobedience.

Thank God that He didn’t give up and say, “bad decision making man.” No, God devised a plan to restore all that has been lost by the fall of man. He began with men and women of faith such as Abraham, Job, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Daniel, David, Samuel and the prophets

of old to name a few. All these men and women of faith responded to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit and made conscious decisions to not only listen to the voice of God but to obey as well. Because of their obedience to the Spirit of God they all played an important role in turning man’s attention towards God. Paul and Barnabas while in Lystra healed a crippled man and the local priest of the Temple of Jupiter assumed they were gods and attempted to sacrifice oxen to them. Trying to stop them, they said: “Men, What are you doing? We are merely human beings like yourselves!” ----- “In by gone days He permitted the nations to go their own way, but He never left Himself without a witness; there were always His reminders – the kind things He did such as sending you rain and good crops and giving you food and gladness” Acts 14: 15,17, ,18 NLT. Just as there are in this day, God has His witnesses who share their faith in the Almighty God.

Six hundred years after King David died, God in one leap forward sent His Son, Christ the Anointed One, to become the ultimate atonement for man. Whom the angels of the Lord said to the shepherds watching their sheep by night, “For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord” Luke 2:11.

For though “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”, and “there is none righteous no not one,” though, “the wages of sin is death”, the apostle Paul wrote “the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” And, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” **OH Hallelujah.** Are you saved? Are you free from the sins of the past? You can be right now. “The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from

the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” Romans 10: 8-10. If you have not accepted Christ as your personal saviour, confess your sins to Christ, acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God and by faith ask Him to come into your heart. You will be a new creation in God’s sight.

Let us now read from John chapter 3. This is the story of Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews. He sought Jesus out by night because he didn’t want to be seen by fellow Pharisee’s for he was afraid that he may be accused of being a follower of Christ. He came to Jesus to enquire about Him and Jesus said these immortal words, vs. 3: *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”* Nicodemus couldn’t understand this statement so Jesus said, vs. 5: *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit* (notice the capital S, meaning Spirit of God), *he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit (of God) is spirit”*. When we accept Jesus into our heart our spirit is reborn or we may say, renewed within us. Obviously if the spirit of man has to be reborn, it must have been dead. Through faith and the grace of God, when we accept Jesus as our personal saviour, our spirit becomes ALIVE. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* Ephesians 2:8-9. **Glory to God. Hallelujah! What a plan! Hallelujah!** What was lost by the sinful act of Adam and Eve has been restored. Man again is able to have fellowship with God the Father via man’s spirit. Man is whole again, **BODY--SOUL—SPIRIT**. Before spiritual rebirth, the spirit of man is all but dead. The first resurrection we experience is the resurrection of our “dead” spirit.

The experience of being filled

with the Holy Spirit does not eliminate man’s HUMAN nature and the messages the BODY is sending to the SOUL via the five senses. To help us with this dilemma, there is one very significant thing that Jesus did before he departed this earth. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to abide within us. *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”* John 14:26. *“It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come”* John 16:7,13. Summarizing these scriptures in point form we see that:

1. Jesus promised to send the HOLY SPIRIT.

2. The Holy Spirit would teach us all things, and bring to remembrance the things that Jesus had previously taught.

3. The Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth.

4. The Holy Spirit would show us things to come.

Before leaving this earth to be with His Father, Jesus said the following to the disciples: *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth”* Acts 1:8.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity along with Christ and God Almighty and makes up the Triune Being of the God Head. It is this Spirit that Christ promised to send and it is this same Spirit that dwelt in Christ and allowed Him to raise the dead, heal the blind and dumb. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2: 1-5 records: *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully*

come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

A word that is often used today is, “empowerment, or to be empowered.” It means to give authority, power, strength and confidence. We often see this word used in advertisements for health products and self-help programs. What we read in the book of Acts is that His disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit. As we read further through the book of Acts we see that the disciples were empowered to carry out great exploits for God. **Amen, oh Gory to God! Shout Hallelujah!** They were empowered to do things that they were not previously capable of doing because they were now filled with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, our human spirit comes back to life. As Paul states in Romans, the soul still wars with the spirit and vice versa, but now we have the advantage because of the presence and indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Before we are filled with the Holy Spirit the spirit of man, although now very much alive and redeemed, still has quite a battle with the soul’s desire to influence our behaviour. However, when we are filled with the Spirit we have the full measure of the of the Holy Spirit’s power to help us dethrone the soul and bring it into submission to the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit can directly influence the SOUL of man. As a result the table has turned and now the Holy Spirit occupies the throne of man which in turn directs our BODY, (the visible part) toward Godly living, toward Godly purposes. Glory to God. The scriptures say: *“to be carnally minded is death;*

but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” Romans 8:6.

Once we’ve experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit we never have to fall back to our old ways. We have been renewed from within and if we daily yield our spirit to the Holy Spirit then we can live Godly lives. The more we yield to the Holy Spirit, the stronger our human spirit will become, enabling us to distinguish between good and evil and to make right choices. “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” Romans 8: 11-14 NKJV. Isn’t that what we are striving for, to become Sons of God? I believe it is. It behooves us to really enter into this experience in a new committed way.

In practical terms how do we yield ourselves more to the Holy Spirit? Apostle Paul addressed this issue in I Corinthians 14:4. “**He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.**” To edify means to instruct or improve morally. When we speak in tongues the Holy Spirit is communicating with our spirit, instructing us in God’s ways and building us up in the Holy Faith. Hallelujah! Paul goes on to emphasize this in verse 18, “*I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.*” Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? If not, begin now to seek God with all your heart, let your elders know that you are seeking this experience and ask them to lay hands on you so that you may enter into this new experience in God. It will change your life forever. Glory to God.

In this article we have looked at the two natures of man, the human nature and the spiritual nature. We have come to realize through reading

God’s Word that it is by allowing the HOLY SPIRIT complete control of our spirit that we can have complete control of our human nature. We will then be able to fulfil the admonition of Jesus when he said: “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*” Matthew 5:48.

Let us have the resolve of Apostle Paul when he wrote: “*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*” Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV.

“*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment*” Hebrews 6:1-2.

Over the last 62 years, God has been systematically restoring all that was lost to the Church since the dark ages. It is now time to move on, to go that last step and that is to go through the painful experience of dying to self, to our will, to our human nature, to our soul nature. Dying is not a pleasant experience because that part of our human nature called WILL doesn’t like to let go. I don’t know if I have

ever known anyone, myself included, that can honestly say that they like being told what to do. We will only reach perfection when we have given up our will to the Holy Spirit. Even Christ asked His Father if it was possible to bypass the cross: “*And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him*” Luke 22:41-43.

May God grant us the strength to lay aside all that hinders us from surrendering our will to the Holy Spirit. Just as God sent an angel to strengthen Christ during his hour of agony, Christ has sent us the Holy Spirit to help us!

God has called us for a purpose and that is to enter into our inheritance. “*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed*” Romans 13:11. It is there before us Saints of God; we just have to enter in. As individual particular members of the Body of Christ let us commit our lives absolutely and without reserve to the work of the Holy Spirit and let Him complete that work in us.

CALLED HOME
 Eily Holt
 May 19, 2010
 North Battleford, SK

PINELOW SUMMER CAMP – AUG. 2 - 8, 2010

Please send your reservations as soon as possible by email to:
martz@shelbrook.com, or phone 604-858-9009.

Please state date and time of arrival and numbers of children including ages. I will confirm your reservation so you will know that you have been registered.

The check-in time begins Monday, August 2nd at 4:00 p.m. and the camp concludes with breakfast on Sunday morning, August 8th. Please advise me if you plan to be at the camp for the first evening (6:00 p.m.) meal.

The camp is located on North Deer Lake Road, just a short 45 minute drive north of Spokane, Washington on Highway 395.

Rates are:		Please bring bedding, toiletries, bibles, musical instruments, etc., and a heart prepared for a great spiritual week. May the Lord bless you all. Daryl Martz
Adults -	\$100.00 USD	
Children - (ages 3-11)	\$50.00 USD	
Families - (children under 18) -	\$300.00 USD	

How Big Is God?

By Andy Snoke

“How big is God?” George Beverly Shea would sing, “How big and wide His vast domain. To try to tell, these lips can only start, He’s big enough to rule this mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my heart.”

These sweet lyrics that have been sung throughout the years, best sum up the essence of God. How can one comprehend that which is incomprehensible? How can we fully comprehend the unlimited God of all creation, both of time and space? And yet, in His immeasurable glory and greatness, He makes His home within our hearts.

When one looks up at the stars at night, surely they declare the majesty of God! As impossible as it is, it is more possible to comprehend the finite universe, than it is to comprehend the infinite God. We see His handiwork, His “signature” all around us.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.” (Psalm 19:1-7 NIV).

Science tells us that our Milky Way galaxy, (which is where we live) is 100,000 light years in diameter. (One light year is greater than a trillion miles). Our nearest neighbor, the Andromeda Galaxy, is 2.3 million light years away. Visible light from other corners of the universe top out at 14 billion light

years away. Beyond this horizon, light is still traveling yet to reach our galaxy.

The scope and size of the known universe, according to the best scientific measuring instruments of man, is truly incomprehensible. Yet once again, the song writer best measures God and the universe with these sweet lyrics:

Though man may strive to go beyond the reach of space,
To crawl beyond the distant shimmering stars.
This world’s a room so small within my Master’s house,
The open sky’s but a portion of His yard.

How big is God? How big is your God? How big is our God? He fills the universe with his Glory, and yet can live within our hearts.

This is the One in whom I put my trust! He is the One on whom we can rely and He never changes. The political landscape of man will always remain in a state of turmoil and uncertainty. Kings will rise, and Kings will fall. But there is one who never changes!! Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever!

Moses learned how big God was when he stood between the Red Sea and the marching Egyptians who planned on slaughtering all of the Hebrews that very day. Obeying a divine order from God, he lifted his staff towards heaven and watched as the sea was parted by the authority of God. He witnessed the glory of God, as the more than one million Hebrews crossed on dry land through the midst of the sea, the same sea that would soon destroy their enemies.

How big is God? David learned how big God was when he saw how his own people stood in fear of the 9-foot tall ambassador for the Philistines. Goliath cursed the chosen of God, and dared them to send someone worthy of battle. David instinctively knew that this battle was not his, but it was the Lord’s. “The

Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion and the bear, will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine,” said David (1 Samuel 17: 37).

As David stood facing this 9-foot tall monster of a man, he listened to Goliath’s cursing and defiling of Israel. “Am I a dog that you are coming after me with a stick?” Goliath said. David replied “You are coming against me with a spear, a sword, and a shield, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled” (1 Samuel 17: 43 & 45). David made quick work of his enemy, and removed the head of Goliath with Goliath’s own sword.

Daniel learned how big God was many times. When King Darius, after being deceived by his own jealous politicians, made a decree that none could make any petition to God (only to him) for 30 days, by penalty of death, Daniel made no changes to his daily prayer routine.

Daniel 6: 10 “Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before” (NIV).

Soon, Daniel was in a literal lions’ den as a penalty for his faithfulness. We don’t have a record of what Daniel did that night in the lion’s den, but I am sure he stood there confidently placing his life and future in the hands of God. Daniel knew a little about how big God was. In the morning, the King cries out to Daniel:

Daniel 6:19-22 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have

not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.” (NIV).

The scriptures are full of stories of the faithfulness of the saints who learned how big God is.

Heb 11:32-40 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were

stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been (fully) promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect (NIV).

How big is your God?

You can know the one and only true God and Jesus Christ His only begotten Son. The door is open for all of us. The infinite God and creator of time and space can take up residence in your heart, if you only ask Him.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup (have fellowship) with him, and he with me (Rev 3: 20).

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*How big is God?
How big and wide His vast domain.
To try and tell,
these lips can only start,
He's big enough to rule
His mighty universe,
Yet small enough to live
within my heart.*

IMPORTANT DATES

Week of Prayer and Fasting June 6 - 12, 2010
 North Battleford Camp July 4 - 11, 2010
 North Carolina Camp July 25 - 31, 2010
 Pinelaw Summer Camp August 2 - 8, 2010
 Caribbean Summer Camp, Antigua August 16 - 22, 2010
 Park Valley, Saskatchewan September 3 - 6, 2010
 Winkler, Manitoba September 3 - 6, 2010
 Hidden Acres, Ontario September 3 - 6, 2010
 Nebraska Meetings (New Dates) September 17 - 19, 2010
 New York, New Jersey Camp (TBD)

NORTH CAROLINA CAMP MEETING

July 25 - July 31, 2010 — Wingate University, Wingate NC 28174

Check-in time begins at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 25. Meals will be served in the college dining hall beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, followed by the first meeting at 7:30 p.m. The camp will conclude with the noon meal on Saturday, July 31. Buildings are air-conditioned. A gym, and other recreational facilities are available.

Charges for room & board:		Send reservations to:	
Age 0 - 3	No charge	ncsummercamp10@triad.rr.com	
Age 4 - 6	\$24.00/week or \$4.00/day	or call Keith Hurley: 336-294-2607	
Age 7 - Adult	\$150.00/week or \$30.00/day	or David Heath: 336-841-0607	
Family rate	\$600.00/week or \$120.00/day		

Wingate University is located 35 miles east of Charlotte, NC on U.S. Highway 74 in the town of Wingate, NC. If you are using MapQuest or a GPS, please use the following university address: 315 E. Wilson St., Wingate, N.C. 28174

Flight arrangements should be made to Charlotte's Douglas International Airport (CLT)
 For airport pickup, contact Kim Kaufman at 704-583-0651 or kkaufman@comporium.net
 If possible, please avoid rush hour arrivals at the airport, since major traffic delays are a problem then.

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

Sharon Children's Homes and Schools
Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3

The Sharon Star is a bi-monthly paper, published and mailed out on the free-will offering plan, as a medium of information for all who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

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