

# 1. Walking in the Spirit

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Subtitle: Living life out of your born again spirit

In 1922, evangelist Smith Wigglesworth came to NZ and ministered in Wellington city in a series of meetings:

- Hundreds of people were miraculously healed of various diseases
- Thousands of people were born again
- Smith is credited with bringing the Baptism with the Holy Spirit to NZ
- His meetings became the catalyst of the Pentecostal movement in NZ
- Most of his sermons were recorded (shorthand)
- One of his sermons was entitled:  
“Step out of your soul and (step) into your spirit”

## 1. Life in the Spirit

**Romans 8:1–8 (NKJV)** *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who **do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who **do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** 5 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, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God.***

**Romans 8:1 (AMP)** *Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, **who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.***

- Once we've received Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour, God commands us to start living according to the Spirit instead of the flesh
- Flesh – old sinful nature (operating out the unrenewed mind)
- Spirit – Gr. pneuma
- ... *to be carnally minded is death - to be spiritually minded is life & peace*
- carnally minded – fleshly-minded

- spiritually minded – pneuma-minded
- ... *those who are in the flesh cannot please God*

**Galatians 5:24–26 (NKJV)** *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.** **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

- Walking in the Spirit means: Enjoying life and peace (Rom. 8:6)
  - Peace with God
  - Peace with self
  - Peace with others
- Walking in the flesh means:
  - Being conceited (proud, vainly opinionated)
  - Provoking one another  
(Ampl. Being competitive, challenging, provoking & irritating others)
  - Envyng one another (being jealous of others)

## **2. God's Word discerns between our soul and our spirit**

**Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)** *For **the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul (psyche), and spirit (pneuma), joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.***

- God's Word is alive & active
- It cuts all the way into us like a double-edged sword (NCV)
- Discerns between soul & spirit (between the "soulish" & the "spiritual")
- It judges the thoughts, motives and attitudes of our heart

Apostle James speaks of a type of wisdom, which is earthly, soulish and demonic (James 3:15).

- The Word of God checks and sifts our thinking, and exposes wrong attitudes, motives and intentions of our heart
- It is not until God's Word is laid alongside our thoughts that we can see the crookedness of our own thinking

The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

"God's Word is able to discriminate successfully between what is 'spiritual' in man and what is merely 'soulish' or 'natural'."

### 3. The tri-une nature of human beings: spirit, soul & body

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)** *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and **may your whole spirit, (pneuma) soul (psyche), and body (soma) be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

- When a believer's spirit is weak, their soul (psyche) teams up with their flesh, and begins to dominate their life
- The results are: strife, offenses, quarrelling, jealousies, divisions etc.

**James 3:14–16 (NASB95)** *But if you have **bitter jealousy and selfish ambition** in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, (sensual) demonic. **16** For **where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.***

- Natural (sensual, soulish, feeling-based & springing from corrupt desires)
- Many Christians operate out of a damaged soul
- Many are filled with jealousy, selfish ambition, unforgiveness & revenge

### 4. Examples from the Abraham family

- Abraham married Sarah - they had two sons: Ishmael & Isaac
- Isaac married Rebekah – they had two sons: Esau and Jacob

**Genesis 25:27–28 (NKJV)** *So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. **28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but **Rebekah loved Jacob.*****

- When parents (either, or both) begin to play the game of favourites with their children, it always opens a door for trouble to come into the family
- Usually it begins with jealousy, then progresses on to resentment, and, unless repented of, ends up with “**disorder and every evil thing**”.
- Jealousy is the starting point of all kinds of evil in families
- Many times, the non-favourite child(ren) resorts to manipulation and attention seeking
- Esau sold his birthright to his younger brother Jacob for a pot of stew
- Rebekah instructed Jacob to trick his father and pretend to be his older brother Esau

- Falling for the trick, Jacob pronounced the fatherly blessing intended for his older son Esau over his younger son Jacob

**Genesis 27:41 (NKJV)** *So **Esau hated Jacob** because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then **I will kill my brother Jacob.**”*

- It began with a mother’s **selfish ambition** for her younger son, and ended up with intended murder
- Rebekah told Jacob to leave the country, and stay with her brother Laban for a while
- Then she manipulates Isaac into sending Jacob to Laban’s family in Padan Aram to find a wife from Laban’s daughters

**Genesis 28:1–2 (NKJV)** *Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: “**You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.** 2 Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.*

- Esau overheard the conversation when Isaac told Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman, but find a wife from Laban’s daughters instead
- So Esau married another woman, only to spite his father Isaac

**Genesis 28:8–9 (NKJV)** *Also **Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.** 9 So **Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath** the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, **to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.***

- Sadly, many families today are riddled with similar fleshly & demonic practices, which rob them of life and of peace.
- Many people carry these fleshly practices from their own families into their church, and repeat the same demonic cycle over and over again

**Romans 12:2 (NKJV)** *And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

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| 1. True repentance             | (2 Corinthians 7:9) |
| 2. Filled with the Holy Spirit | (Ephesians 5:18)    |
| 3. Renew your mind             | (Romans 12:1-2)     |
| 4. Filled with the Word        | (Colossians 3:16)   |