

## *Spiritual Law*

**John 1:1-3...** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. **John 1:14 ...** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. **Col 1:17....** He (Christ) is before all things and by him all things consist. God and his Word are one, God and his Word preexisted all things, his Word created all things, his Word is in all things, and by his Word all things hold together. Jesus was and is the Word of God. This is the Word of God, also called the Law of God, and which we will call spiritual law.*

**Genesis 1: 1** *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. In the beginning means before there was a created order. In the first chapter of Genesis we can see clearly the preexistence of the Word of God and the Law of God (spiritual law,) and that it was used by God to both order and create the created or natural order, and therefore spiritual law is the dominant force of all of the created or natural order. The Word of God, or spiritual law, contains the DNA of God, since God and his Word are one. All of the created or natural order responds to the Word of God since all of that order contains the Word of God, and the Word of God holds all things together.*

**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 replentish 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. Man was created by God to be the god of the created order and to have dominion and authority over it, subject to God, his Word and spiritual law.*

**Genesis 2:7** *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground (earth), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. This passage is a further explanation of the creation of man. Man was created at the end of the sixth day, after all of creation was established, for him to be the god of the created order. All this was done by the Word of God, or spiritual law. He was to be subject to God and spiritual law, but he had authority to use spiritual law in carrying out his assignment from God. Moreover, since he was created in the image and likeness of God, he was given as a part of his spiritual DNA a knowledge of spiritual law in order to exercise his gift of dominion and authority over the created order. In making the created order, God placed certain laws and the operation thereof in creation itself, which man would be unable to change but which he could exercise dominion and authority over, and Adam was given*

knowledge of these laws of creation as well. Notice that Adam himself was a part of the created order, but Adam did not have a choice at his creation whether or not he would be subject to God. He was created subject to God, but in that creation he was given the right to choose to obey God or not. When Adam fell he **chose** to disobey God and thereby become subject to a new law, the law of sin and death. It actually was not a new law, it was a perversion of spiritual law, or what we might call the dark side of spiritual law, accomplished by means of a curse instead of a blessing. *Note particularly that blessing and cursing are elements of spiritual law.* The right to choose that was given to man was essential to man being created in the image and likeness of God, as it distinguished man from all of the remainder of the created order.

There are some essential elements of spiritual law that we see in the fall of man, one of which is the right of choice. God will not force any man to choose to serve or honor him. Notice in **1 Tim 2:14.....** *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding, she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. Adam was not deceived.* That means that Adam made the choice to become subject to the law of sin and death with the full knowledge of what that would mean. Adam had full knowledge of spiritual law and natural law. Adam understood that as a result of his choice all mankind would become subject to the curse and the law of sin and death but he also knew there would come a redeemer, who would be God himself, and that through redemption the curse would be broken. Since the Bible is silent on this prior to the fall of Adam, this has to be an element of spiritual law that was and is contained in the knowledge base of creation. Moreover, it is not just spiritual law but it was placed in the created order as well since according to **Rom 8:21..***creation itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

**Romans 2:12-15...***For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, not having the law, are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.* This is a long passage that basically says that the Law of God, and spiritual law, which contains the knowledge of God and at least a basic knowledge of redemption, was placed by God in the hearts of men as a part of the created order. Note the use of italics, which indicate that a portion of this passage was added by the translators in order to more fully explain the meaning, but we can be sure that all men have basic knowledge of what is presented in this passage. It applies to *all men as well as to all of creation*, and it will never change since it is also an element of spiritual law. God's intent was that man, as gods of the earth, would have knowledge of and authority to use spiritual law, subject to his leadership. However, when Adam chose to disobey God all mankind and everything mankind had dominion over became subject to the curse, which again is a perversion of or the dark side of spiritual law, and subject to the leadership of satan.

This leads us back to a key concept of spiritual law, which is the right of choice. As man was made in the image and likeness of God, he had the right of choice. No other

element in the created order has the right of choice, and it distinguishes man as god of the created order from everything else in creation. It remains the distinguishing feature of God's gift to man, and because this gift is in the very nature of man it meant that sin would permeate the very nature of man. Moreover, since man was god of all the created order, all of creation would now be subject not just to sin but to the nature of sin.

Now Adam had the right of choice, and Adam was not deceived. Adam understood that by choosing to do what God had instructed him not to do, that he and all of the created order would become subject to the nature of sin. Adam must have made the decision to sin because 1. Eve had sinned and Adam realized that they were now separated in their natures, but his declaration in **Genesis 2:23-24** required him to act; and 2. Adam knew that God as his spiritual head was a redeemer, that his nature was redemption, and that if Adam sinned God would come and redeem them both. Adam at that point exercised his right of choice to disobey God and to take on himself the nature of sin, not because of disobedience, but for the ultimate redemption of all mankind and creation. Because Adam and Eve were one flesh, the different nature of Eve after she fell would create a double minded man, unstable in all his ways (**James 1:8**), and it would be so forever. Adam therefore sacrifices his nature, which had not sinned, for the redemption of another, knowing that redemption would require and demand the intervention of God.

God as redeemer is clearly in the knowledge base of creation. Notice what happens between **Gen 1:1 and 1:2**. In **Gen. 1:1** God begins the act of creation. Now we know that the nature of God is order, but something happens to the earth and order no longer exists, as the earth is without form and void. The something has to be that the presence of sin enters the earth and creates disorder and perverts what God created. **Luke 10:18** *And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.* But the Spirit of God moves on the face of the waters and in **vs. 3** God reestablishes his presence and his dominion, authority and order over creation. As a result there is not only redemption of creation but a knowledge of God as redeemer enters the created order. We know from **Rom 8:19-22** ....*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same, in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.* It is evident that creation has a memory, that creation remembers God as redeemer, that creation understands that it is and shall be subject to the sons of God who were created in the image and likeness of God, and that it will be redeemed and delivered from the bondage of the dominion of sin by the sons of God. When Adam was formed from the dust of the ground, the knowledge of God as redeemer was in his body from the memory in creation, and is passed to all men through the seed of Adam. When Adam got the breath of life, he got the nature of God to act on behalf of God in the process of redemption. So we see that an element of God's nature is redemption and the nature of God in man includes redemption.

This shows us a fundamental and important principle of spiritual law, that redemption and deliverance from the bondage of any form of sin will require redemption by God. It is not in the nature of man to redeem or deliver, it is in the nature of God and the nature of God inside man. For a practical out working of this, look at the spirit of poverty. The amount of money a person has does not have any bearing on the spirit of poverty or the spirit of prosperity. Since prosperity is in the nature of God, the spirit of poverty came

with the nature of sin. Therefore deliverance can only come by replacement of natures, God's nature for sin nature. A man by the skill, wisdom and knowledge of man can earn and accumulate wealth, but not be delivered from the spirit of poverty. True deliverance and redemption can only be by the power of God, whose nature is redemption and deliverance.

The redemption of mankind, and therefore all of creation, would have to be done by the principles of spiritual law, using the nature of God as redeemer. Further, now men had the right of choice, so men would have to decide to follow God. That meant that the benefits of following God had to outweigh the effect of the obligations required to follow God. This established a principle that exists to this day, that men will follow God if the benefits of covenant with God outweigh the obligations of men in that covenant. God could not force his will upon anyone, so God selected a man named Abraham to make a covenant with him using the power of choice that is in the nature of man.

The reestablishment of covenant between God and man and the progression of that covenant is the subject of the next chapter of this series. One of the essential elements of our covenant with God is the preservation of the right to choose. All men have the right to choose their spiritual head, either Jesus Christ, Son of God, or Satan, head of the law of sin and death. Therefore, all men have the right to choose to be subject to the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus or the law of sin and death. Because of the fall of Adam the default mode is the law of sin and death, meaning failure to make a decision to enter into covenant with God automatically defaults man to the law of sin and death. **Romans 8:2** .. *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

The choice to line up under Jesus Christ the Son of God is set forth in **Rom 10:9,10**... *That 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.* When a man makes the choice to believe in his heart and confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, he is made the righteousness of God. **2 Cor 5:21** *For he hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* When man is made the righteousness of God, he receives a deposit of the nature of God on the inside of him and he has made the choice to come into covenant with God

What happens to man at that point is similar to what happened to Adam. Man has spirit, soul and body that are not spiritually connected to God, but in the act of acceptance of God's offer of salvation, man's spirit is born again with the life of God and man becomes a new creation. **2 Cor 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.* Righteousness is deposited inside him, which is a deposit of the nature of God. That nature contains a knowledge of spiritual law as well as the authority to use it, but they are delivered in spirit form and in seed form. Because the nature of God is now inside him, albeit in seed form, man now has dominion and authority over the created order in spirit and new covenant form along with seed form knowledge of spiritual law to help exercise that dominion and authority.

Dominion and authority over the created order *in spirit and new covenant form* was accomplished by God as follows:

**Hebrews 8:8-10**....*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.*

God is saying that not only will there be a new covenant, which is a better covenant with better promises, but it will be written on the hearts and minds of his covenant people so they will know it and can use it. *They will have to choose to be subject to it*, but once they do so choose, they will have a helper on the inside of them in the form of the Holy Spirit to work with them in using God's Word (spiritual law), and they will have an advocate seated in Heaven ( the present day ministry of Jesus) to help bring it to pass. God's Word, and spiritual law, did not change, God just added his ability to help bring it to pass for his covenant people. God's intent from the creation of Adam down to today was that man would be the god over his creation, subject to him, his Word and spiritual law established by him, and that man would know and be able to use that law to take dominion and authority over the created order.

**Galatians 6:7** *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.* This is spiritual law and it is eternal. Moreover, as spiritual law it works the same every time. Man always sows in one direction or the other, and as God's covenant people we want spiritual law working for us at all times and not against us, so it is critical for us to know how to sow to the Spirit. That is so important it bears repeating: ***We have to get spiritual law working for us and not against us.*** The objective of the ***Give Me a Year*** program is that we will be able to identify the elements of spiritual law and make sure ***it is working for us and not against us.*** In the chapters to come we will examine some specifics of spiritual law and how to use them for this purpose.