

BORN AGAIN: SPIRITUAL DEATH

In **Genesis 2:17** God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for you shall surely die. The Hebrew meaning is, dying thou shall die and it implies two deaths: Physically and spiritually. Both deaths were not instant but took place over a period of time. The offspring of Adam and Eve lived almost 1,000 years, why? They didn't know how to die.

The Bible talks about 3 types of death:

Physical death | Spiritual death | Eternal death

We know about physical death, we have seen this and experienced this with those around us who have passed on. Spiritual death is something a little harder to explain and understand and eternal death is the final death in the end. In this newsletter we are going to focus on spiritual death.

What is spiritual death? It is the separation of the human spirit from God even while the physical body is still alive. In spiritual death a person is also alienated from the life of God. When God said to Adam & Eve that they would die, it was much more than just their physical death, it was a death process that would impact them: physically, spiritually & eternally. God provided a solution, it is found in Jesus Christ. When a person receives Jesus as their Savior they pass from spiritual death into spiritual life (**John 5:24**). Some have referred to Adam and Eve as dying spiritually instantly and that is simply not the truth. After the fall God not only provided a covering for them (**Genesis 3:21**) but He also continued to fellowship with them and their offspring like Cain and Abel (**Genesis 4:1-16**).

Satan's goal was to join man's spirit which is given from God, to their flesh which was the dominion he could access (**Genesis 3:14**). In **Genesis 6:3, 12 & 13** we can see the impact Satan was able to have on mankind and his impact was significant because of the nature of death now at work within the flesh. Humanity over time lost spiritual identity and awareness, this is now known to us as spiritual death, separation from God. Thanks be to God who now through Jesus Christ has done something about spiritual death, He has reconnected us to a life in the spirit through being born-again.

In the fall and the process of losing spiritual identity, humanity became one with their flesh. The nature to sin was passed down through Adam and through Eve, the mother of all living (**Genesis 3:20**). This is where the nature to sin, HARMITIA, to miss the mark with God, now promotes "self deception" and spreads to all mankind because all have sinned. This nature is at work within all of us, we all sin out of the nature in the flesh termed "sinful passions" (**Romans 7:5**). According to **Romans 3:9** and **Galatians 3:22** sin is at work in our members because we are all under a sin nature when born into this world, this nature is what

we inherited from Adam. **Genesis 3:5-7** says the eyes of them both were opened, this is when the natural mind came alive. This verse could not be referring to their spiritual mind, it was already in contact and fellowship with God. After the fall, they could now see from a different realm & perspective they never before could see from, they now knew good and evil (**Genesis 2:17**).

In the old testament before the flood, humanity was going out of God. In the New Testament we are reversing the process and going back into God, the eyes of the saints are opened for those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, (**Mark 4:12 & 23**). **Romans 5:12** says, sin entered into the world, this is a bible term for spiritual death. As we have stated, death passed upon all men, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned". For that all have sinned means, as a result of Adam's possession of spiritual death we all inherit spiritual death. **Romans 5:15** (paraphrased), for if the offense of one many died (born spiritually dead), then in the same way by one man, the second Adam (Jesus Christ), many will be made alive (spiritual life). **1 Corinthians 14:45**, "And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

We see this also in **Romans 5:14** we read that the first man Adam was a type of Jesus Christ, Him that was to come. **You see, Adam and Jesus each functioned as a federal head, one unto spiritual death, the other unto spiritual life (Romans 5:19)** Jesus wasn't like Adam, on account of Adam's transgression which affected the whole human race, but was rather a type which was in Christ's obedience unto death, burial, and resurrection, creating the path for the new birth.

We will continue on the subject of born-again out of Romans chapter 5 in the January newsletter. I would recommend you keep your letters together on this subject.

If you have missed any of the newsletters you can get them from byhisword.org/newsletter. We started on this topic in April 2021. I pray you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, we will talk again in December.

Love,
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