

# UNDERSTANDING GOD AND HIS PURPOSE IN OUR LIVES

**Text: Hebrews 11:6**

**Key Word: Purpose**

**Key Thought: God Brings Life and Liberty**

One of the most important teaching at this time in church history is that of understanding who God is.

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

*Hebrews 11:6*

I would say that most songs and sermons focus upon the Second Person of the Godhead, Jesus our Lord and Saviour. It would have been better to explain how the Godhead works in harmony. My main concern about this is that most sermons in the last 40 years about the Holy Spirit have been based upon an imbalanced and lacking a Biblical foundation. Many have been based upon an experience so the church doesn't really understand WHO God is.

Before preaching on what the Holy Spirit does in our lives in the form of Spiritual Gifts, I want to build a foundation for my thoughts.

## **I. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIFE TO OUR BODY**

## **II. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIBERTY TO OUR SOUL**

### **I. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIFE TO OUR BODY**

*“then the Lord God formed [that is, created the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being [an individual complete in body and spirit].*

*Genesis 2:7 AMP*

The essential chemical elements found in soil are also found in humans and animals. This scientific fact was not discovered until recent times, but God is displaying it here. Adam was perfect human being in body but he was lifeless until God *“breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.”*

## I. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIFE TO OUR BODY (Contd.)

*“And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became **a living soul.**”*

*Genesis 2:7 ASV*

**Our SOUL** determines what we **THINK (Our Intellect)**, what we **FEEL (Our Emotions)** and what we **DO (Our Will)**. Even though Adam was created as a mature adult man in his body, he still needed to mature in his soul. How long did that take? Sometime in his 930 years of life I suppose!

***“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”***

*James 2:26, ESV*

The moment we are conceived within our mothers womb our human spirit is given life. The Holy Spirit is able and wants to have a relationship with us from the moment of our conception.

*“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, **and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.**”*

*Luke 1:41*

*“And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe {o} leaped in her womb; **and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:**”*

{o} “This was no ordinary or usual type of moving.”

[Geneva Study Bible](#)  
[Luke 1:41 footnote](#)

Not only was Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit right at the moment she heard Mary’s greeting; John (the Baptist) leaped in her womb and 8 days after the birth of John during his circumcision, his father Zechariah began to praise God **as he was filled with the Holy Spirit** and prophesied (Luke 1:67). **Notice the Life, Joy and Praise as the Holy Spirit filled them.**

## II. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIBERTY TO OUR SOUL

One of the best passages that I've often turned to to describe how the Godhead works together to **gently receive entrance into our soul** is what Jesus said while outside the door associated with the church of Laodicean.

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”*

*Revelation 3:20*

\*\*\* The famous painting “**Christ at Heart’s Door**” first by William Holman Hunt and later by Warner Sallman becomes vivid in my mind when I contemplate what Jesus was referring to.

The barely concealed heart produced by the luminance of Christ and the frame of the doorway convey Christ’s call to the soul ensnared in thistles of sin and the darkness of ignorance and willfulness. Yet, as promotional literature points out, *“all is not hopeless, for there is an opening of grillwork in the door ‘revealing the darkness within,’ so that the individual may see who is at the door, and see that He is good and kind.”*

For Protestants whose spirituality is premised on the acceptance of a call and “**born again**” experience and its subsequent testimonial, this image articulates a central theological principle and has served to commemorate such experiences. For others, the image offers assurance of Christ’s benevolent yet persistent love. Still others interpret the image in terms of the freedom of will.

A Lutheran clergyman admires the painting *“because the absence of any outside knob or latch on the door indicates that one must open one’s heart to Christ from within — He will not force His way inside.”* \*\*\*

Eating with others was always commended in the Scriptures to build strong relationships. In Luke 19:1-10 Jesus invited himself into Zacchaeus’ home when He saw this rich, prideful, chief tax collector most likely in his 60's who had climbed into a Sycamore Tree to see Jesus. He was too short in a crowd to get close to Jesus in Jericho. The walls were about to come down.

That same day Jesus humbly gave liberty to Zacchaeus’ soul while being condemned by the crowd, Zacchaeus proved his sincerity by repaying those he robbed with exorbitant taxes by paying four times the amount OR the repayment required by the Law of Moses (Exodus 22:1).

## II. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIBERTY TO OUR SOUL

Are we willing to open the door of our heart to Jesus to come in and begin to have fellowship with Him? It starts by humbling ourselves before a humble God and admit to the wrongs we have done no matter what others think.

*“For the Son of man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

*Luke 19:10*

The last part of this point is that not everyone is still at the beginning stage of the Liberty of their soul. Some of us can become burdened and distracted in our preparations in serving Christ and those He loves. We can get our priorities out of place and take on the victim mentality. Who does that help out? Jesus made it clear what she really needed. It wasn't sympathy! It was honesty! Martha was demanding the wrong change that was needed. Martha needed to change NOT Mary.

*“Tell her to help me!”*

*Luke 10:40*

*“But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42. but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”*

*Luke 10:41,42*

The name “*Martha*” comes from an Aramaic word meaning “*lady or mistress.*” It is not really a proper name but **rather a title**. It is given to someone who is essentially a maid or a housekeeper. Margaret Atwood recently used it in the Handmaid's Tale to expose how these infertile, low-ranking and unmarried women were mistreated in history. They were also mockingly described as “aunts.”

**Was Jesus trying to help her accept her destiny and purpose in life?** Why do we want to be like someone who is admired instead of abased. We can't all be kings and queens. Liberty comes to our soul when we don't try to change God's plan for our life. Not everyone is going to be a Mary (Mariam, Maria) in life. Just as we should not rob Peter to pay Paul - we should not try to convince Jesus that we are a Mary not a Martha.

Does it bother you that you are not what you had hoped to be? Are you stuck in the comparison game? The best way to get out of a hole is to stop digging.

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Date: Feb 9/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Who You Say I Am - G

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**Geneva Study Bible - Luke 1:41 footnote; Luke 1:67). Notice the Life, Joy and Praise as the Holy Spirit filled them.**

### II. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIBERTY TO OUR SOUL

*Revelation 3:20; Luke 19:1-10; Exodus 22:1; Luke 19:10; Luke 10:40; Luke 10:41,42*