

We All Need To Experience God

Ephesians 2:10 [NIV] *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Through our contact with Jesus and the Holy Spirit God is creating in us a new person.

Job 14:15 [King James] *“Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.”*

God has a desire to see His new “born again” child.

But we have to ask the question will the finished product be “a work of God’s art” or will we finish up a something “man-made”?

One thing will make the difference, our experiencing God.

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

Romans 9:21 [NIV] *“Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?”*

For God to mould us into a being that is pleasing to Him and someone who will bring Him glory and honour we must have a “hands on” experience with God. I mean a real experience through our senses.

How can this happen?

Romans 1:19-20 [NIV] *“since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

Each of our physical senses has a spiritual parallel and this is how we can have a real experience of God.

The key that unlocks these parallel spiritual senses is the real sixth sense!

What is the sixth sense?

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

This “breath of God” accomplishes two things in our experience of life.

This spirit in us gives us intellect and a sense of awareness, consciousness, [**Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

It is through this consciousness that we can, in union with God’s Spirit, the Holy Spirit, have our experience of God.

This real experience then comes to us in the spiritual parallel senses to our physical senses.

1 Corinthians 6:15-17 [NIV] *“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh.’ But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”*

This union of two spirits is likened to the physical union between a man and woman. The outcome of that union is a new being.

This new child is the product of lust when the union is outside of marriage, or the product of love within that intimate marriage union.

Revelation 19:7-9 [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

The union of Jesus Christ [the Lamb of God] and the church is likened to that of a marriage.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Jesus Christ is united with us through the intimate union of our human spirit and the Holy Spirit. Note the statement *“for He [Holy Spirit, spirit of truth, Jesus the Christ] lives with you and will be in you.”*

In the sexual act of union in a physical marriage all our physical senses are involved, likewise in the spiritual union all our parallel spiritual senses can be involved.

Let us now consider these parallel spiritual senses so we can then experience our union with our Creator God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 [NIV] *“However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’, but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

The world in general cannot experience God because they do not have the Holy Spirit in their lives. The human spirit within them is in a coma, alive but not spiritually active. We also, before we are called of God, repented and died in the waters of baptism to then be resurrected a *“born again”* child of God, did not have an active Holy Spirit in our lives. Our lives were limited to the action of our human spirits and influenced only by the spirit of this society, Satan.

By our conversion our parallel spiritual senses are awakened out of their coma and we can then experience our Creator God for real through these awakened spiritual senses.

We interact with our Creator through these senses.

Our human spirit hears the Word of God

We hear the Word of God in a language we can now understand, before it was just unintelligible sounds.

1 Kings 12:22 [NIV] *“But this word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God:”*

Note it was a “man of God”, one who had God in his life, who heard God’s words.

1 Chronicles 17:3 [NIV] *“That night the word of God came to Nathan, saying:”*

Nathan was a servant of God when he heard the Word of God.

Luke 3:2 [NIV] *“during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.”*

John the Baptist was a messenger of God’s Word, he spoke as he heard God’s words.

Acts 8:29 [NIV] *“The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”*

Philip was a deacon in the early church, [Acts 6:5].

There is no evidence that these messages were audible to others. What was heard was then spoken to others.

Most Christians can witness to such experiences from time to time, for some this is a daily reality.

Our human spirit can see

Acts 2:17 [NIV] *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”*

Since the advent of the Holy Spirit, seeing visions and dreaming dreams is part of our Christian birthright.

We need to monitor our dreams as they can be an important window to our inner light.

Matthew 1:20 [NIV] *“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

Matthew 27:19 [NIV] *“While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”*

The dreams from the Holy Spirit will be **very distinctive in quality** that will enable us to recognise them and pray for further understanding and application.

Our human spirit has a sense of smell

2 Corinthians 2:15 [Living Bible] *“As far as God is concerned there is a sweet, wholesome, fragrance in our lives. It is the fragrance of Christ within us [the indwelling of the Holy Spirit] an aroma to both the saved and the unsaved around us.”*

This is **not** talking about the perfume or aftershave a person chooses to use but something that is only sensed by the spirit in us.

This spiritual aroma is the result of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

All of us have had this experience of a pleasant atmosphere when we are in the presence of a practising Christian.

Our spirits can smell, we can discern what is spiritually fragrant and what is evil polluted.

Song of Songs 1:13 [Authorised Version] *“A bundle of myrrh is my well beloved to me...”*

True love is a spiritual fragrance that is only discerned by our human spirit.

Many of us have felt the God has touched our lives at certain times of trial or sadness

This touch is not in the tactile sense but an inner registration of the Holy Spirit’s gentle pressure.

Psalm 139:5 [NIV] *“You hem me in, behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.”*

The gentle guiding hand of the Great Shepherd.

Mark 5:23 [NIV] *“and pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”*

The touch of the hand of Jesus was linked with healing.

Mark 1:40-42 [NIV] *“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.”*

The cleansing touch of our Saviour.

Jesus used touch in His ministry to those in need and the Holy Spirit is continuing to perform Christ’s work now on earth, [James 5:14-15].

Our human spirit can taste

Psalm 34:8 [NIV] *“Taste and see that the Lord is good...”*

Revelation 10:9 [NIV] *“So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.”*

This spiritual tasting can be negative as well as positive. We often speak of a negative experience as having *“left a bad taste in our mouths”*, or it was an *“unsavoury”* incident.

Just as our tongue can identify bitterness, of putrid food so our spirit can recognise putrefaction in the spiritual world.

We can also delight in the sweet savour of the presence of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit directing our thoughts.

Jeremiah 48:11 [NIV] “*Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another, she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged.*”

In describing a generation of people devoid of God’s influence the Hebrew word translated “taste” [ta’am] is more often used to describe perception and by implication intelligence, judgements or reasoning. Showing a spiritual rather than a physical concept of taste.

Their lifestyle was putrid in the eyes of those who observed it, and it was unchanging as they grew up.

A lack of constructive purpose and action had caused this “taste” and “aroma”.

Psalms 119:103 [NIV] “*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*”

In contrast we have the pleasant “sweetness” of God’s Word to those who feed on it.

Job 6:30 [King James] “*Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?*”

The righteous Job was able to “taste” what was in direct violation to God’s Law and way of life.

Our human spirit has the capacity for willpower and emotion

John 13:21 [NIV] “*After he had said this, Jesus was **troubled in spirit** and testified, “I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.”*”

John 11:33 [NIV] “*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply **moved in spirit** and troubled.*”

Luke 1:47 [NIV] “*and **my spirit rejoices** in God my Saviour,*”

Acts 19:21 [King James] “*After these things were ended, Paul **purposed in the spirit**, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.*”

2 Corinthians 2:13 [King James] “***I had no rest in my spirit**, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.*”

Watchman Nee puts it this way:- “*The spirit possesses another set of senses, lodged in the innermost part of our being, which are radically dissimilar from the set of soulical [physical] senses. There in that innermost recess we can rejoice, grieve, anticipate, love, fear, approve, condemn, decide and discern. These motions are sensed in the spirit and are quite distinct from those experienced by the soul [physical body].*”

I am not disparaging the use of normal human capacities of intellect, will and emotion, these can be renewed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] “*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.*”

This transforming of the mind is accomplished in our human spirit in conjunction with the active presence of the Holy Spirit.

What I am trying to bring to your notice is the potential for a spirit enhanced intellect, will and emotions that can often be dormant but activated by the union with the Holy Spirit.

It is through such activation of our human spirit that we can “*experience*” God in our lives.

Proverbs 20:27 [NIV] “*The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.*”

It is this light from our Creator that illuminates our whole being through the “*human*” spirit in us.

Acts 15:28 [NIV] “*It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:*”

Here we see an example of the Holy Spirit illuminating us through the human spirit.

After prayer and meditation we may embark on a certain course of action only to feel deep within us that something is “*not quite right*”, and as we pause in our actions the Holy Spirit will show us the pitfalls within the proposed action.

As we yield to this inner course correction we will experience peace in our human spirit.

Maturity is learning to live out our lives in this Spirit/spirit realm

Romans 8:5-14 [NIV] “*Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled **not** by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does **not** have the Spirit of Christ, he does **not** belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is **not** to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*”

Unless we are serious in our efforts to discipline the appetites of the body and the dominance of our “*soulical*” capacities we will never create an inner climate of rest that enables us to hear the Holy Spirit.

We all need to spend time every day in a special place of quietness well away from the distractions of this “*soulish*” society, with its dominance of satisfying our physical senses.

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV] “*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, **you were marked in him with a seal**, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of his glory.*”

An understanding of the seal [Greek “*sphragis*”] is important in recovering the capacities of our human spirit in conjunction with the Holy Spirit.

The “*sphragis*” was a mark on the foreheads of servants and soldiers and also animals destined for sacrifice.

As servants or soldiers of Jesus Christ we bear His seal as a mark of His ownership and this seal is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The early church spoke of *“keeping the seal”* as they presented their bodies as *“living sacrifices”* and also literal sacrifices under suffering and persecution.

The seal also carries the impression of an image or likeness of the owner of the seal.

We are to bear, in our lives, the image and likeness of the Holy Spirit, who is Jesus here on earth now.

The seal [Holy Spirit] works in two ways.

1 Corinthians 9:27 [NIV] *“No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”*

Our communion with the Holy Spirit will energise us to resist all the bombardment by external stimuli of the society to follow its path.

The seal [Holy Spirit] also works by sealing us in the tomb with Jesus so that we are able to break out into a resurrection and walk in a newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4 [NIV] *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

This “sealing” of the Holy Spirit enables our senses to operate at a new spiritual level.

We will make mistakes, we will grieve the Holy Spirit and at times put out His fire but never beyond repentance.

Genesis 1:26-27 [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

God desires to create humans in His *“image”* [Hebrew – *“shadow”*] and His *“likeness”* [Hebrew – *“model”* or *“imprint”*] but note that at the beginning He **only** created us in His *“image”* the temporary *“shadow”* form.

1 Corinthians 15:49 [King James] *“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”*

Here we have a New Covenant parallel to the original creation in Genesis.

The Greek word translated *“image”* is used in two ways, manifestation and representation of main object.

The word is used of the image on a coin.

Matthew 22:20 [King James] *“And he saith unto them, ‘Whose is this image and superscription?’”*

The image of Caesar, a resemblance but also a representation.

Romans 1:23 [King James] *“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”*

The corruptible body of human beings.

1 Corinthians 11:7 [NIV] *“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.”*

Humans as they were originally created were to be a visible representation of their Creator God, even in their “fallen” state humans are still suitable in measure with limited God-like qualities not found in animals such as love of goodness and beauty.

Hebrews 10:1 [NIV] *“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming, not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.”*

The “fallen” human beings and the Old Covenant of law God made with them are but the “shadow” of what was going to be accomplished in the New Covenant of grace.

What Adam and Eve lost, followed by the whole Adamic race, will be recovered and humans will truly represent their Creator in “image” and “likeness”.

This recovery from our “fallen” state can happen now.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 [NIV] *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

This is not talking about some future state after the return of Jesus Christ. It is to be our present state and task of work. Adam and Eve and all humans since, cut themselves off from God. Jesus Christ and His ambassadors have the task of restoring right relationships between the created human beings and their Creator.

To accomplish this we have to now, today, bear the “likeness” **not** just “shadow” of our Creator.

1 Corinthians 15:49 [Amplified Bible] *“Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image of the Man of heaven.”*

This translation emphasises the time factor behind the Greek text, past and present, not just past and future.

1 Corinthians 15:49 [Message Bible] *“In the same way that we’ve worked from our earthly origins, let’s embrace our heavenly ends.”*

Just as we have matured physically we are now to mature spiritually.

God wants us to accomplish this by a close relationship with Him through an intimate union of our human spirit and the Holy Spirit, really experiencing our Creator God.

The new child that is the result of this union will bear all the characteristics of the Father.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

When we live by and keep in step with the Holy Spirit we really experience our Creator in all our spiritual senses.