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THE NATURAL MAN, THE CARNAL MAN, THE SPIRITUAL MAN

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"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." (I Corinthians 2:12) This matter of receiving the Holy Spirit, being filled, quickened and led by the Holy Spirit is a very real and undoubtedly the most important thing in our individual lives.

One of the purposes of the Spirit is that we might know the things which are freely given to us of God. Actually the only way you can know God's will and leading for you is through the Spirit. If it were apart from the Spirit then anyone could get the mind and the will of God. It is not enough to have knowledge on the Word; we must also have the Spirit. "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (I Corinthians 2:13)

There are three types of minds: the natural, the carnal and the spiritual. All three have their characteristics; all three have their place, and all three are a development one from the other.

In Romans 3:10 we read: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." There are many good people, good human beings, but there is none righteous, no, not one. This is a description of the natural man, the unregenerated person. This is how God sees the natural man. "There is none that understandeth, none that seeketh after God." (Romans 2:11) Man in his natural state does not seek God. If man is going to find God, it is because God sought him.

"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Romans 3:12-18)

Another reference we should look at in regard to the natural man is II Peter 2:12: "But these,

as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption." In this context I am aware of the fact that it deals with the corruption and the wickedness of the evil people of our day. We have had two thousand years of Christian influence and Christian restraint and preaching of the Gospel, but wherever you find even the Isaacsons without the Gospel and without Christianity, this is what they degenerate into — the natural man. "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally . . ." (Jude 10)

We want to consider the carnal man, the worldly man, because this is what we primarily are interested in. Romans 7:12 through 14 reads: "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual . . ." We have read that the law is spiritual; the law is holy; the commandment is holy, just and good. So there is no fault with the law and the commandments.

We continue in verse 14 and find out where the difficulty lies: ". . . but I am carnal." This was a Christian speaking, the apostle Paul speaking, ". . . but I am carnal, sold under sin." We have to have more than the law, even though the law and the commandments are holy, spiritual, just and good. As an individual I have to have more than the law. I have to have more than knowledge. I must have help.

Paul develops this thought: "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Not then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." (Romans 7:15-17)

"I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another