

For the first time, let's not turn to Genesis, okay? John 6.

John 6:57 - As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are life.

Now then, if I were to ask anybody in this room to say to me, What is the main thing in this passage of Scripture, I believe you would say spirit and life. Because the Lord Jesus came upon this earth as a higher life, and he came into us as that life in spirit, and we are to feed upon his life in our spirit. If you remember John 4:4, it said, Jesus speaking to the woman in Samaria, a new age has come. Man will no longer worship on the mountains of Samaria, nor will man worship in Jerusalem, but in the future, and even now, he that worship the Father will worship him where? In spirit.

Now, does that mean whoopee kind of spiritual? No. What does that mean? That is a geographical location. They will worship Him in spirit. God is a spirit. And those who worship Him will worship Him. Show me real quick. Where? Show me. Right there. All right. Thank you, sister. They will worship Him in spirit.

Now, the burden that we have tonight is how can we touch that spirit? Where is the switch? Well, we have said that the switch is the human spirit. And all day long, we have got to learn to switch on. We have got to learn to turn to the spirit. But the question is, where is it? Alright, it's down there somewhere. But how can we really feed on Christ? How can we worship him in our spirit? He in our spirit?

Well, brothers, there is another word in this verse. We've been using it now twice. Twice. Last month and this month. There's another word in there. What is that word? Can you see another word? An important key word. What is that word? The word. *Word*.

*The words that I speak to you, they are spirit, and they are life.* The words which I speak to you, they are spirit, and they are life. Now the Lord Jesus came, according to Genesis 1:1 and John 1, He came as what, He came as the Word. Alright, brethren, tonight we have to really see something of the Word. The Word. Okay, I need some help. Alright, let's see.

John 7:37, okay? Matthew 15:26. II Corinthians 3:6. I Corinthians 15:45. And I Corinthians 6:17. Now that's our first batch of scripture. Okay, are you ready? Let's hear them.

John 7:37 - *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."* Alright, He said, of the drinking, let him come to me and drink. Now, in this passage, he said, Let him eat. Now, somewhere in here, there is a difference in the drinking and the eating.

Alright, we'll go on. Go ahead, sister.

Matthew 15:26 - *And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."* Who is he talking to? And he was talking to a Greek. Do you realize if you look at that real carefully and look away from the negatives that the Lord is saying that he is bread for children? Have you ever listened to it that way? Have you ever felt like that? He is bread for children. Okay, he is bread and his drink. Okay, go ahead.

II Corinthians 3:6 - *who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

All right, now then. Now we come to the word. And what does it say of the word here? The word can do two things. Are you aware of this? The word can what? Kill. And the word can also give life. What? It is the letter that kills. The spirit gives life.

Now, brethren, I just want to say this to you here that there is something - this is speaking of the word of God - the word of God can be a dead letter that kills, or if it is taken in by the Spirit, it can give life. Did you get that? It can give life, or it can be death. How do you get it into you as death? In the mind.

Brethren, I have been studying the book of Ezekiel. I believe if I take a dragon's tooth out of Ezekiel and put it with a bear's ear in Daniel; brethren, if you'll notice, if you put this dragon's tooth with a bear's ear in Daniel, you will be able to see that there comes a time where I believe I have found the exact date of the panmillennial mid tribulation post rapture and you know and just so much. Where is the life?

Brothers and sisters, there is something that we need to learn here. We need to sense that which is life and that which is death when it's ministered. Now, don't be judge of any man, but you must be very careful to not be awed by the mind. The mind gets high on knowledge, but that's not the spirit. It's not just the spirit, but it's not only when we come to the Word, but also when it is ministered, that we need to really consider: is this ministering life?

Brother Nee used to tell the story that when he was young, he was under the tutelage of a deeply spiritual woman. I had a dear sister friend in Christ who's gone on to be with the Lord. She was a Methodist missionary in China. She completely gave up the system, and as an American, she went and put herself under Brother Nee. Later, she came back to America. I knew her for the last three years of her life. She knew the sister - I hope you can follow this - she knew the sister who Brother Nee was under as a youth. She was a deeply spiritual woman. Her name was Sister Barber. Sister Barber took Nee, a brilliant young Christian in his late teens and really taught him the deep spiritual thing, and brother Nee said as a youth he used to go and say, Sister Barber, oh I found this great man and he would take her to the meeting and this man of course would preach some great things, and they would leave and she would say to him, Henry...Nee's name in English is Henry. Brother Henry Knee. Nobody knows that it just came out, I'm sorry. Henry, did you sense life?? And he'd think about it. No, he didn't. And he'd take her again to another one. Henry. Did you sense life? And he'd think about it.

Then one time a man came through, and he said, You've got to hear this man. This man is really preaching life. She went with him to the meeting. They left. And you know what she said? She said, This man has had a real living experience with the Lord, but it had already become old. She was a very discerning woman, and I really know what she means. Men who have a great experience, a living experience of the Lord, and then they go out and they give it over and over and over, and they do not build on that which God has done. He had had a living experience of the Lord. There was something in his past of the ministry of the Lord.

My brethren, there is something of the Word of God that can be death when taken into the wrong organ, into the soul. The soulish man cannot really feed on Christ. On the other hand, when the Word becomes spirit, it is life. It gives life. Do you understand?

Alright, now then brethren, we have to learn to come to the word of God not with our brain, not with our intellect, but to come to the word of God with our spirit.

Okay, what is the next verse? Yes, brother.

*I Corinthians 15:45 - So also, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

Alright, thank you, brother. Now then, first Adam, soul. Do you have that man in you? You have the man Adam in you. He is a living soul. Is he a life-giving soul? He is an entity within himself. He is just a living soul. There was a second Adam. Oh, I'm sorry. There was a *Last* Adam. Hallelujah. Praise God. There was an Adam, Adam, Adam, Adam, Adam. And finally, one day God said I'm going to put an end to this, and there was a last Adam, and that last Adam was who? Jesus Christ, and he became the what? Can you guess? He became the new man. And in that day, he became a life-giving spirit.

Now then, if you wanted great power, where would you go? Well, I would suggest that you go to the army or to the navy, or to the Marines. There's power there. If you want wealth, where would you go? Well, I would recommend you go to Fort Knox. Maybe you'd better hurry. There's not much left there. But there is wealth at Fort Knox. If you want to have wealth, go to Fort Knox, but if you want life, where do you go? The army can give you power. Fort Knox can give you wealth. But the Spirit gives you life, so you come to the Spirit for life. Jesus Christ is that Life. What else is he? He said he is the Word, so when you come to the Word, you come to the Life, when you come to the Life, you come to the Word.

Okay, do we have another scripture?

*I Corinthians 6:17. He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit.*

All right. Praise the Lord. Do you know that verse again? He that is joined to the Lord. By the way, that verse just said, He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit. It doesn't even say with the Lord. It just says, He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Brother, there really is only one spirit inside of you, not yours and the Lord's. There's just one. The two have become one. If you took tea out of this glass and poured it into a bottle and you took tea out of this

glass and poured it into a bottle and shook it up real well, could any scientist on earth separate the two again and put them back in their glasses? No, they have become one and brothers and sisters; the Lord came into your spirit, and you are one with him.

Okay, we need some more verses. I just wanted to go through each one of these and explain them. Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. This is the uniting of... Oh boy, you just asked one of the deepest questions in scripture, brother. This is Adam and Eve. She is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, but what is Eve a picture of? The church, and what is Adam a picture of? Christ. So, the church is life of his life and spirit of his spirit, you see? Praise the Lord. The church is just like Christ as far as that goes. In a real sense, it is the corporate Christ; it is the life of his life and the Spirit of His Spirit.

Okay. Now, brothers and sisters, let us go to Hebrews 4. If at any time I lose you, please let me know.

Alright. For the word of God is what? Did I not tell you where it is? Hebrews 4:12 Excuse me, brethren. Hebrews 4:12. I guess when I think of Hebrews, I think of this verse. Have you all realized now just how many verses there are in the Scripture that deal with the soul and the spirit? Had you ever seen this before, sisters and brothers? Now you find out that's about all that is in there.

Alright, Hebrews 4:12a. *For the word of God is quick (living), and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...*

For the word of God is what? Living. Now what's living? The word of God is living, and it has authority. What translation does anyone have here of the next word? Do you have it? Is living and what? Active. Alright. It is living, and here would be a better place for the word 'quick.' It is living and active. And brethren, someday we are going to look at the activity of the life within you. We have never done that. Maybe very soon we can get into this. Alright, the Word of God is living and it is active. Have you ever felt the Lord active in you? I know you have. Do you ever feel Him resisting you? Or quickly leading you? Or could you almost feel him restless inside of you? Brethren, sometimes I almost feel his footsteps walking up and down. I really mean that.

Alright. The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the dividing of what? Soul and spirit. Alright, now, brethren, I want to talk to you as brothers and sisters for a moment. We have been really looking at the Spirit of God, the Spirit in our spirit. We've been looking at the higher life in our life. We have been looking to find out that we are to live by a life higher than ours. Then we discovered this real negative thing, that we have a soul, and we've been running around here thinking, well, we've been living a spiritual life, and suddenly, amazingly, find out we have been living a what life? A soulish life. But so many people who think they are really living a Christian life. a spiritual life, brothers are living by the grit and the effort and the sweat of their own life for God. They are not; they are serving God in their own strength, and they are not ministering the Life

And I guess, brothers and sisters, those of us who have really been guilty of ministering out of the power of the human soul, I guess we have to go further back to the end of the line than anybody. I'll tell you, brothers and sisters, I know you feel it's so old at 22. You just go and say, Thank you, Lord Jesus, I'm not as old as Gene Edwards. Do that. Just thank you, Lord, that you caught me when I was young. Now, Lord, keep me caught. Just keep me caught, and Lord deal with my soul.

Alright, we suddenly discovered that so much of what we have done has been in the power of human life. Now, brethren, so you have learned it, now forget it. I would hope that the church, the brothers and sisters here in Goleta, would not get in the habit of saying, Oh, I was doing this in my soul. Brothers, listen, do you think God cares if you're in your soul? I told you this over there. Do you really think he cares whether you do something in your soul or not? The Lord has never even noticed that, and if you start going around noticing it, you'll be the only one worrying about it. I'm not going to worry about it, and your brothers and sisters will just kind of, you know, they'll help you along, but they're not going to worry about it. Why should you worry about it? Forget it. The Lord will say hallelujah every time you are in the spirit, and he won't care a bit about the other. Brother, it is where you're headed, it's not where you are. It's where you're going, it's not where you are. Brothers, you are to be in the Spirit. You labor to enter the rest. That's the verse of scripture. You labor to enter the rest. That's a strange verse of scripture in it. That's a biblical term. You labor to enter into the rest. You strive to be in the Spirit. I mean, don't turn around and say, I'm in the soul. I'm just not going to do anything. That's the worst thing you can do. That's really been in the soul. But I, Lord, by your mercy, I'm going to find the way in the kingdom. I'm going in, Lord. Whatever else, I'm going in.

Alright. Now then, brethren, this living, this living word of God that is quick, that is living, this word of God, it separates soul from spirit. Who separates soul and spirit? Do you? No. Let him do it. Will you just let the Lord do it? And he can do it so beautifully. You just better believe it; you don't have a thing to worry about. You just say, Lord, this is where I want to go. The word of God will cut the soul and separate it from the Spirit. Here is my soul. The word of God that is living and quick. Not the word that is dead letter, but the word that is living and quick will split the soul and divide it from the spirit, and the spirit and the soul will be separated, and what does the rest of that verse say? Would someone take up reading it right there? Real loud and clearly.

*(Hebrews 4:12b) ...piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Alright, now then. It cuts the joint from the marrow. We are like a bone. The soul is the bone. You see the bone is in here. What's out here? The flesh. Then inside is the bone. And the spirit cuts the bone, and inside the broken bone is the spirit. The Spirit of God cuts the bone and exposes the marrow, and the marrow comes out. It is deep within. What is the last thing it does? It discerns the thought and the intent of the heart. Well, I don't want to go into a lot about the heart, but the Word of God can separate that which is thought and that which is will. It can separate that which is of you, and it can separate that which is of the Spirit. The

Lord of God can discern. The living Word of God can discern the difference between the heart, the thoughts, and the intent of the heart. You cannot. Sometimes you cannot. I guess if we were really honest, every time we could not, I wonder. But there are times when we really just feel like we do not know, is this the spirit or is this the soul? But when we come to the Word of God, then as we come to the Word, the Word cuts the two and separates them, and we can sense, we can discern, we can know the difference between the spirit and the soul.

Now, brethren, it should be abundantly clear to us at this point what we need to do. We need to simply come and learn how to deal with the living word of God. So that the living word of God might quicken us, give us life, make us alive, and separate the soul from the spirit.

Alright, what is the first thing we do when we come to the word of God? Brothers, try your best, now don't try too hard, I shouldn't say that, just try a little bit, no, try your best, just try a little bit to not go to the word in your mind. And you know there is nothing wrong with the soul when the soul has been under the control of the spirit. Do not think of the soul as something evil; to God, it is very precious. The Lord Jesus died for your soul. It is very precious. What would a man give in exchange for his soul? Nothing. And when the soul is under the spirit, it is very precious to the Lord, so do not think evil of your soul, but when it is not under the influence and the control of the life of the Lord, it is enlarged as the self. Brethren, do not hesitate to use the soul to enter into the spirit. You have to go through the soul to enter into the spirit, so come to the Lord, come to the living word, and if you're in the mind a little bit, it's alright a little bit, but try to move out of the conscience, thinking, rationalizing, desire to learn, and come into the living word.

Ok, now, then what is the word of God? What is the word of God? Jesus Christ is the word of God. Let us turn to Galatians. Go ahead and turn there, but before you do, turn to Ephesians 6:17. Praise the Lord.

*And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Alright now, brethren, what's the word of God? Do you know this now? If you ever get a Nestle linear Greek (Bible version), it has a little asterisk by it, and it has a footnote, and it says, It is the spirit that is the word of God, not the sword. It is a strange arrangement of the Greeks, but it is the Spirit that is the Word of God.

Now then, would you go back to John 6:63 and 67? You don't have to turn there. He said,

*The Words that I speak to you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Brethren, the sword is not the word of God. The Spirit is the word of God. Jesus Christ, translated out of human flesh into Spirit, is as much the Word of God as Jesus Christ, the Creator in Genesis, is the Word of God, and Jesus Christ come as the Lamb in John 1. The Spirit is the Word of God. What does this mean? What does this mean to you, and what does

it mean to me? It means that this book, though it is the scripture, is the spoken word of God; it becomes the Spirit in your spirit. I want to repeat that. This becomes Spirit in your spirit.

As the spirit receives this, it becomes spirit and life to you in you.

But brethren, if it is taken in the head, I've said this to you this morning, I Corinthians 2 is so clear that the soul is incapable of taking in the spirit. The soul cannot discern spiritual things, and in that respect, when you come to the word of God and read it in the mind and in the soul and in the conscience, the Word of God says that it is dead letter. Because it just comes up to an impenetrable wall, and it becomes knowledge to you. The soul cannot take in the spirit. It cannot take in the spiritual any more than my ear can take in food because it's the wrong organ. The ear cannot take in food, but the Spirit takes the Word, and the Word comes in. And the Spirit literally is the Word. I don't know if you can understand that, but the Spirit takes the Word, and it is the Word. Brothers, when it comes in you, it is Spirit. When it comes in here, into your spirit, it is Spirit. And what is the Spirit? The Spirit is life. And you feed on Christ.

Now, I'm going to repeat that because that's deep. This book, when taken into you by your mentality, becomes a death to you; but when it is taken in by your spirit, it is the Spirit. It becomes, even though it is living, it becomes living to you, and it comes into you as Spirit, the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. The word becomes Spirit and is taken into your spirit as Spirit and life.

Now then, turn with me to II Timothy 3:16. *All scripture is God-breathed.* And what is God's breath? Brother, two things. It's the Word of God, and it's the Spirit. God's breath is the Word of God, and it's the Spirit. So, brother, the Scripture has been God-breathed. Now then, it has to be spirit received. The word of God is God breathed. Now it has to be spirit received. It is received into your spirit as Spirit and as life.

All right, brethren. We are looking at our relationship to the living word of God. I think that we need now to just stop. Is there any question at this point as to where we are? This is God breathed. It cannot be taken into you as life if you take it in through your mentality. When it comes into you in your spirit, it is taken as Spirit itself, it is taken into you as life, and it is taken into you as the word of God. It is the word of God. It is the spirit, and it is life. It is life-giving when it comes into you in the Spirit. All right.

Now then, would you all turn to Romans 8. I'm going to have to do it again, sisters and brothers, put your finger there. Before we do that, can someone find Jeremiah in the Old Testament, right after Isaiah. Jeremiah 15:16. And someone else take Ezekiel 3:1-3. Will someone else take Psalms 119:103? Alright, Jeremiah. Listen to it.

Jeremiah 15:16 *Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;*

Now, brethren, we feed on Christ, and we can feed on Christ in the Word. Has anyone ever told you before that you can eat the Scripture? You can eat the Word with an organ. What is

the organ you have for receiving Christ? The Spirit, and Christ is the Word. So as you come with your Spirit, you can feed on the Word. And when you feed on the Word, the Word becomes, it is, but for you it becomes Spirit. We feed on the Word, and the Word becomes Spirit to us and is taken into us. All right, what's the next one?

*Ezekiel 3:1-3 Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So, I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll. He said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you." Then I ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth.*

Alright, praise the Lord. Brethren, you can come to the Word of God, and you can eat it, and it's like honey. I did not say it was like knowledge. It is like honey. It is sweet, and it is precious. All right? Someone else over here has Psalms 119, is that right? Alright.

*Psalms 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

Praise the Lord. The words of God, when taken in and eaten in your spirit, they are even sweeter than words, or than honey. The words are sweeter than honey. Brethren, we come to the Word of God to eat the Word of God and to feed upon the Word of God, and we take in the Spirit, and we take in the life.

Now then, listen again to John 6:63. *The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are Life.* And you can take those words and you can feed on them and they come into you as Spirit and as life.

Now then, will you go to Ephesians? Ephesians 5:19. Now, then, will someone find Colossians 3:16? I've got Ephesians 5:19.

*Colossians 3:16. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*Ephesians 5:19 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

Can you see any difference in those two verses? There's just a little. Just a little. Alright, this is the difference. In one of them, it says, When you are filled with the Spirit, you will speak in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. You will be filled by the Spirit. You will be making melody in your heart unto the Lord, and the other says, When you are filled with the Word of Christ, you will be making sounds and melodies and music unto the Lord.

Right, brothers and sisters. When you come into this door next week to meet, the Word of God says you are filled with the Spirit, and when you are filled with the Spirit, you come in with psalms and hymns and songs. But the other verse is identical to it in every way except that it says, instead of being filled with the Spirit, you are filled with the word of Christ. Is that the way it is read there? Alright, dwell within you is the same as being filled with in the other passage. Alright, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, let the Spirit of Christ fill

you up. There is no difference in the outcome; the same expression is there, except in one, you're filled with the Word, and the other one, you are filled with the Spirit.

But brethren, when you are filled with the Word, you are filled with the Spirit. And when you are filled with the Spirit, the Word of God is living within you. Now, all I'm saying to you right now is that you can come to the Word of God and take it in to eat, and it will be life to you. It will be Christ to you. You can feed on it, and it is the higher life as it enters into you. The Lord Jesus is literally the quickened, life-giving word that comes into you as the higher life when you take in the Word in your spirit and by the Spirit.