

I'm going to talk with you about the...Before I do, I'd like to review what we talked about last night. Last night we talked about the beginning of the Christian faith being in the Godhead, that when the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, He came bearing mostly His past experience with the Father. Now, did He come to earth to give us that experience, or did He come to earth to create a new experience for us, different from that which He had with the Father? Was He going to pass on what He had or was He going to create something new? If He were going to create something new, then surely, He would come and tell us to pray, read our Bibles, witness, tithe, and go to church on Sunday. But if He was coming to share with us what His Father and He had had together through all eternity, then we need to go back to the scripture and take a whole new look at it because we may have just shot right past most of our faith.

The time that the Lord Jesus Christ lived in Galilee and Judea with His disciples, and they watched Him. It was not His way of living, His philosophy, or His teachings that mesmerized them and magnetized them. It was something going on inside of Him that was not of this world. If we continue committed to our present conduct, our present idea of conduct: we go to church to find out what we should and should not do, we open the Bible to find out what Almighty God expects of us, then wittingly or unwittingly we're ending up with a salvation based on works. That's not exactly what we do. You know what we really do is we have a salvation by grace, but beyond that moment of grace, everything else is works.

We are looking at a certain way to pray. We are looking at a certain obligation to God and a certain obligation to man, and that is what is demanded of us, preached to us, and it's what we go out to fulfill. And essentially, we are Muslims. Now, don't take that and go quote it. Gene said, "All the Christians are a bunch of Muslims." But all that a Muslim understands is what God expects of him to perform, and that's all that he knows. He performs it five days a week with a few little rules thrown in, and as I look and visit and witness and get to know Christians, I see all over the world this obligation, these things I have to do. Do this, and I will satisfy God.

Where's the spiritual element? Where's the other world? Where's the unknown? Where's the...I think our concept of the Christian faith today is based on one false premise, and that is, whatever I'm told to do and to perform, I can do it. It is expecting of me divine conduct from a non-divine creature. It is the same as going to a sparrow and telling him to write the Declaration of Independence. You can't do that as a sparrow because you are the wrong life form, and to present me or to present any Christian to present you with an with an the obligations of the Christian faith and never tell me anything about my internal being and how I am to lay hold of the life within and the Lord within me and expect me to perform the Christian faith is more ridiculous than asking a sparrow to write the Declaration of Independence.

Yet that is basically what we've got. An objective faith that says, "Here is a parable; this is what the Lord demands, you go do it." Here is a teaching of the Lord: this is what He demands you go do it. That is all built on this assumption that, as an ordinary human being, fallen, sinful human, I can do that. You've got to give me a little more than that, folks, or I'll never make it. Something is

desperately missing here. And I believe that we will find the essence of it in the Godhead and their fellowship. I believe that's what the Lord came to give you and to give me.

Well, I also traced last night in the last meeting what happened to...the origin of the deeper Christian life was in God. It was lived out and experienced in Christ, in His relationship to the Father, during the first 30 years of His life. As He grew into it, He shared it with a group of people. He shared that life with them. He then gave them that life after His resurrection, and they lived it out corporately together. And the best thing I can say about that is how far a field we are from it is to simply look at the first-century vocabulary. It is not our vocabulary.

Did you read Ephesians 1? That's first-century vocabulary. Have you heard anything like that recently? Did...do you...you're laughing, Andy. Do you get my point? How far a field that is from next Sunday's sermon in a good Southern Baptist church? Southern Baptists, forgive me, I pick on you because I have the inherited right to pick on you. I can't say anything against the Methodists. Tom can talk about the Methodists.

Boy, they had something going there. If they wrote, if they wrote and spoke that way, and they understood what they were talking about, those people had a sense of things that we have no concept of, but I hope you'll have a little concept of them before we finish this. It was lost in the second century, probably because of persecution. In its place came the Greek and western mind, taking over essentially, boy, I'm this is new, essentially an eastern faith, I'm going to get nailed for that. We get the impression that Jesus Christ grew up in Athens, sometimes I think in Rome or Paris, forgive me, I know he didn't live in India, but boy, He sure didn't live in Athens. And He did not have a Western mind. He didn't have a Western mind. He had never studied under Plato or Socrates, but you'd never know that today. We've ended up with a Western faith, and we are constantly demeaning and deriding Eastern religions, saying, "Would be fine with me, just as long as you keep that on the other side of the Ganges River," or wherever India begins. But the Hebrew faith stood between east and west and was neither, and it had some element in it that's just not found in our western faith.

When we crossed the isthmus of Byzantine or Byzantium or something like that, when you cross that, when the faith crossed that line, it lost a lot and picked up a lot it should have never picked up. Your faith is not Western, but your present-day mindset, and the way we view it is Western, and we are always damning and demeaning Eastern religions. I wish we'd stand up and damn and demean Western religion a little bit. It's as ungodly and as much from darkness as is the east. And our faith has suffered from the Western mindset. The deeper Christian life got caught up in the 7, 8, 9, or 10 stages that go from conversion to union. Whatever this is, it's purely Roman Catholic. It's got no place in an evangelical faith; in the meantime, we are still being plagued by Aristotle. I don't know if you know it, but Aristotle wrote the first dissertation, as far as I know, ever written on the basis of presenting logic.

When I got to the seminary, the first thing I was told was to outline the book of Galatians. Well, what's that got to do with u being Western? I'm sorry, but Paul was not a Western man. In that

book, it doesn't follow an outline. I'm here to tell you, if you try to outline the book of Galatians, it can't be done. You can force it to be outlined, but that is a living, breathing book passionately written by a brokenhearted, angry man. It's a letter. It's all it is. It's a letter written by a man who had visited other realms, but boy, when I got through with it, I could outline it from and had lost everything in the process. So, Aristotle still lives in the Christian faith. I just want to tell you, we need to go back to eternity past and enter the mind of God, or we are never going to get anywhere in coming back to a first-century faith.

We've got all of the superstition of the West, all of the traditions of paganism, the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, the Western mind, and now modern-day humanism to cut through, and we're never going to make it. We'd better just leap over them and come back to the very mind of God. Let this mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus.

Audience: I recently used an illustration when I was preaching about Enoch. Enoch had nothing, none of the tools that we have today, yet he had a tremendous relationship.

That's right. Our present-day faith...I know you've never thought of this...is built on the simple supposition that you have to be able to read and write to be a devout Christian. Now think about it. You cannot be a proper Christian unless you can read and write. That means that somewhere in eternity past, God decided that His faith that He would deliver would be of no effect unless man had the gift and ability of literacy. He could go into hieroglyphics, and from that to symbols for sounds, and from that, He would be able to write meaningful words and thoughts out of abstract drawings. Do you believe that? Do you believe that in order to know your Lord and Savior, it is absolutely necessary to be literate? Well, if you don't believe that, then you have to ask yourself, can He be known outside of literacy? And if so, how? Enoch was a very primitive brother. 95 to 97, possibly 98 or 99% of all the people who lived in the days of Paul in the cities he preached in could not read or write, and yet in the 20th and 21st century, we stand back and look at them with jealousy. Well, they had something going for them. Oh my. Gene Edwards, have you no sense?

Audience: The same. This morning, I went for a walk and didn't know where I was until I got here, but I still had faith. The map just confirmed that, yes indeed, I was here, but I got there without the map.

That's wonderful. Alright, now, this is what we talked about the other day, and now we're up to our day and time, and we're here in this room, and we are seeking to find a way to know the Lord deeply and meaningfully. Now, all of that was a review. You got all of that last night, I'm sure. But I did it again this morning from a little different view, so that you could really know you know.

Now then, I think I would like to talk about the first Spirit there ever was, and the first life there ever was. We will move from that high point to understand our relationship with Jesus Christ today. Now I want you to imagine God, if you can, and I want you to imagine Him as the All. Now that means that there was nothing else but God. Now that's impossible to understand because you have to see God as limited, and there has to be, therefore, God and a lot of nothingness around Him. But

if we understand the scripture, there was a time when He was all, and you could not get outside His bounds; He was everything. Now what's there? There is light, there is life, there is spirit, there is God. That's all that there is God, but He is made up of many elements. I would take two. By nature, three, by nature, He was invisible. He did not weigh. He did not have measure. He did not have dimension. He did not have form, and if you had stood there in that primordial age, you couldn't have seen Him even if you were looking for Him. He is by nature not visible.

To another spiritual eye, you could have seen Him, and you could have seen the light and all of that. Now, I may be sounding like I'm talking nonsense, but to the human eye, He is invisible. To His own eyes, He is seen, and He is there, and He is light, and He is life. What is His natural substance? He is invisible. His natural substance is spirit. That Spirit is a form of Life. Let's put it that way, shall we? There is now a form of life in a non-universe. There's nothing there but God; let us say the entire universe is God. That's all there is in that universe, and that God is invisible and that God is spirit by nature.

If you look at my suit and you ask, "What is it?" You say, "Well, it's cloth." But press the point. What is it? It's wool. God is God, but what is He? Well, He's a living being, but what is He? Substance. He is Spirit. That Spirit was alive; there was also Life. Now He gave a name to His Life form. He called His Life form the eternal Life form. That is, He is eternal life. That is a very good choice of words because it means His life will always be, and His life always has been. There is no beginning to it, and there is no end to it. It has no origin. It has no termination. Now that's different from everlasting life. Everlasting life begins but never ends. An angel has everlasting life. God has eternal life. Two different forms of life entirely. Can you see God as spirit and eternal Life?

Now, I'd like to change that a little bit and say, can you see that as a life form? Let's put it on the biological scale. Where does it fall? Well, it falls at the top of the chart. He is the highest form of life there ever was or ever will be. He is at the top of the biological scale. God, who is spirit, who is invisible, who is Life, and His Life is called eternal Life. That's the highest form of Life, and at that time, it was the only form of life. Now, later, He decided to create. When He decided to create, He created angels, and interestingly enough, He created them very similar to Himself. When He created them, He created them within a sphere for them to inhabit, and He created the sphere, also similar to His own being. The sphere was invisible, and the sphere was spiritual. It may not have been spirit, but it was spiritual. Then He put inhabitants in that. He gave them everlasting life. He gave them indestructible, everlasting, but nonetheless created life.

It came out of His fingertip, and now here they are. They are enclosed, limited beings of light and spirit. They are everlasting, and they belong to the sphere of the spirituals. They bear some kinship to, some reflection of, more a striking kinship to, some reflection of God's life. The first time I ever went to an artist in my whole life to get some artwork done was in Houston, Texas. And when I went to the artist, the thing I noticed about this man was that he had the strangest arms. They were the shortest arms I ever saw on anyone his size. I asked him to do some figures for me, and

he did, and when I got them back, everybody in the pictures had really short arms. There was a reflection of the artist in his creation. I'm sure you understand my point.

When God created the angels, and He put them in a spiritual sphere, and they were spirit beings, and they were light, and they had a life that went for a long, long ways, it was something of the nature of the artist being seen in what He had created. I don't understand the relationship between angels and God. Don't ask me to explain it; I have no idea how it works. If you do, write me a big paper on it. Send it to me, and I'll explain it just like I learned it, and I won't give you credit for it. I'll put it in a book. I don't understand the relationship of God to angels. I could tell you lots of things, but I don't know how they communicate. I don't know if they speak to one another. I don't know if angels have a sense of humor. I can tell you one thing about angels: they consider us very slow. Every time you ever see an angel speaking to a man, he is saying, "Make haste." He does. Look through the New Testament. And also, don't be afraid, which shows how little we are acquainted with the other realm. Make haste. Go quickly, and no matter how fast we go, it still looks slow to them.

Well, now, let's not see God here and not the angels, but let's look at that sphere again. The sphere reflects something of the artist who created it. It is without dimension and limitless. I think that when I make that point, folks don't know what I'm talking about. Why would you even bother to mention it's limitless? I mean by that it's not big or small. Now, if you go into it, it looks very, very big, but because it's dimensionless, it could fit inside an atom. The entire heavenly realm can fit in a space smaller than the smallest element that we know in the material world. It is without dimension, and the reason I bring that up is that the entire spiritual realm could fit inside you. But if you happen to find the door to get into it, you would find it enormously large. Nonetheless, it can fit inside you.

I want you to see this realm now. I want you to sort of get acquainted with it. I want you to know that it seems to be itself limited and God seems to have put Himself within that realm and He seems to have limited Himself. The angels can now view Him. He has allowed something besides God to exist. There is God, plus; there's God, plus this sphere, this realm, and there is God and the angels. So obviously, He has made room for something other than Himself.

Now then, the most interesting thing in the world about this realm, as far as I'm concerned, is that it's got a door. It's got a door. There's a door. You can get in and out of this place. Well, where does the door lead to? It leads into the spirituals. Alright, what about the other direction? Aha. What's on the other side of the door going in the other direction? Nothing yet. Then God decides to create a universe that is almost, not quite, but almost the exact opposite of the first one, because everything in this universe will be visible. Everything in that one was invisible; everything in this one will be with dimension. That one was without dimension; everything in that dimension was spiritual. Everything in this dimension is material. Everything was spiritual; everything here is physical. Invisible. Visible. Physical. Spiritual. Without dimension, dimension, and I left one out now. What is the opposite of it? Well, what's the opposite of material, without saying spiritual,

material immaterial, without material, I suppose. No, they both seem to have light in them, or they're going to have both of them have a light that reflects the nature of the creator.

The angels are light. The realm that is spiritual seems to be filled with light. I'm going to get to this in a minute, but they both have wind. Both of them have wind. Well, but we have to press the point of material creation. He comes in. He did all that in half a day. Now then, in just a second, He creates the material realm. Just let there be, and poof, here it comes. Galaxies, orbs, realms, universes, shooting stars, comets, nebulae, gases, everything from a galaxy to a neutron and a proton. It's all weighable, and it has dimension to it.

Now, the thing that you have to remember is that no matter how far you travel in the physical realm, you can never reach the spiritual realm. It can't be done with the greatest rocket ship that will ever be created. You cannot reach the spiritual realm by traveling a distance. There are the invisible heavens. There are the heavens you and I see when we look into the stars at night, and then there's that area of the heavens between us and the clouds: the three heavens, and you cannot get to the third one by anything you do in the first and second.

The Lord stepped through that door, walked out, and said, "Let." And He began creating. He just did it all like that. Genesis is so arresting. It says, "Oh, and He made the stars also." The writer almost forgot the whole created universe. Oh, and He made the stars also. Then He spent five and a half days working on one little bitty place. The reason it took so long to work on that is that it was the only place in the material realm that would have life. I don't think that statement will ever be disproved. I'm willing to be wrong, but it's probably the only place in the material realm where life exists, and the incredible thing that took so long was that there were so many forms of life.

Now we go to the biological chart. Eternal Life, invisible, God, the highest form of life called Eternal Life. Right under it, angelic life, invisible, very fast, light, and spirit, very much like the first life, also spirit. Well, believe it or not, instead of going to the third form, the Lord drops to the bottom of the chart and starts working back up again. I think that's curious; He's saving the best for last, no question about it, so He now begins making the most primitive form of life, and it is visible. It's an herb, just a little seed. It's green. Then He makes the fish a little bit higher form of life. So, we got down here grasses. I don't know if you know this, but bacteria are vegetables. I bet you didn't know that. Bacteria are a vegetable. Ask a doctor. It's a vegetable. It's plant life. Right above that were the fish, and right above that is the bird of the air. And then, right above that, are the cattle.

Now then, each is progressing upward toward the angels. They're really moving toward the angels. The herb has life but no consciousness and no soul. The fish have consciousness and just a tiny, little bit of a soul. The bird has consciousness and quite a bit of a soul. The soul is developing. The cattle come along, and the primates, and these creatures can out and out think; they have a very highly developed soul. So here we are, coming up with life forms, and what have we got? We've got the physical and the psychological, or the physical and the soul, all visible. The physical makes it immediately visible. The seed is visible. The fish is visible. The bird is visible. The animals are

visible. They are material. They have dimension. They have souls; they have no spirits. They cannot have spirits because they do not belong to the spiritual realm. They belong to the material realm. The soul belongs to the material realm. The spirit belongs to the spiritual realm. The physical body belongs to the physical realm. There are no physical bodies in the other realm. Just spiritual bodies, consciousness in the other realm, but invisible consciousness.

In our realm, we're now getting something physical and also conscious. When you get to the animals, they're very self-con. They're aware of themselves, and they can think. Have you ever seen the illustration of the...you can take a turkey, or a single brother, and face a turkey or a single brother into a V-shaped fence, and he will stand there and, mostly the turkey, he will pluck and pick and he will try to get through, with food right here, and he'll stick his head through and he will just do everything on earth he can to get through; he cannot get through. If you place a dog right there, he will look at that food, he will look at that fence, and he'll look at that fence, and he will turn around, and he will see if there's an opening. Well, good night, there's a huge opening to eat that food. He can think. He can reason. He can clearly reason and think, and if you've never owned a dog, I mean, those critters can get downright psychological with you. They're con artists. Well, a turkey just can hardly figure that out. Some single brothers can. They can figure out how to turn around, walk around the fence, and get their food, but not all of them, I'll tell you for sure, not all of them. Now you must think I think very lowly of single brothers. I think single brothers are the most important people in the whole world. For them, till they get married, they are very, very, very dumb, well, and very religious.

Physical and conscious life; let's look at our chart again. Spirit, God, Life eternal...goes forever. Right under Him are the angels. Coming way down here, life with no consciousness, just physical, lives and dies quite quickly. The fish, little consciousness, physical, visible, a life that ends quite quickly. The bird has more consciousness and a life that goes on a little longer. The cattle are still visible to the physical eye, but quite limited. Very conscious. Earthly life. Earthly life. Earth life. Visible eye. Material life. Terminal life.

Now, there's only one of those lives that has internal fellowship, and that's the life of God. Now, it so happens that we find out this door allows the angels and God to come and make visits in the material world, but it is not their habitation. They don't naturally live there. They always go back to the better place. They think it's better; I don't blame them. It's their habitat. You and I prefer a house over a cave, a snake hole, a rat hole, or a treetop. We all tend to go to our habitats.

Now, then, I want you to see God about to create yet another creature. We've got a place right here on the biological chart waiting for Him. He will be unique. First of all, God makes him visible. He takes him out of clay, and the very clay screams: he belongs to the earth. He belongs to the material realm. It preaches a sermon; he belongs to the material realm. He belongs with the animals, and God forms this beautiful, sculptured, red-tinted dirt, and the angels are enthralled. They know in a moment that dirt is going to stir, and a living soul will stand up that is smarter and more intelligent than the animals, and who will rule the earth. God leans over the man and is about to touch him to

bring him to life, but He stops. He stands up, and the wind of the earth is blowing in the face of God and is perhaps filling the nostrils of God if I can take my picture. Perhaps not, but the winds of the earth are blowing in His face. The angels are poised to watch this masterpiece come to life. Then God does an incredible thing. He lifts off the earth. He leaves the material realm, and He goes back through the door, and He enters heavenly places. He enters the invisible sphere. The spiritual sphere. The sphere that has no dimension. The spiritual sphere.

He enters again the realm that is natural to Himself, and He breathes in the wind of the heavenly places. He breathes into His being the wind of the spirituals, and now He turns, and He goes back through the door, and He descends to the earth. He comes to the side of the clay, and He reaches over at the very nostrils of this earthy masterpiece that He has sculpted, and He breathes, releasing an element of the other realm that doesn't belong to this realm, that is foreign to this realm that has never been native to this realm, that is unlike this realm, that belongs to the other realm. He releases the realms of the spirituals, the realms of heavenly places. He blows it into the man, and the wind of heaven goes into the internal parts of this man, rolling, turning, pulsating, keeping the light of the heavens and the winds of the heavens, and comes into the inmost being of this dirt and begins to pulsate. God touches the man, and the man, having the dirt of the earth and the wind of the heavens combining with one another, man becomes out of this combination a living soul, and he stands up, and he's like the angels, and he's like God. He goes; he's covered with light. The animals are not covered with light. Deep within him is a ball of light that belongs to another realm, and it has no dimension, and it has no end, and it cannot be measured, and the animals can't even see it. But the angels can see it, and God can see it, and the man can see it. And that's not all.

The animals can't see the angels, but the man can see the angels. He can see them, for he is endowed with something from another realm and belongs to another sphere. Say, "Praise the Lord." Praise the Lord. And he looks, and he can see God, and he has something of the wisdom of the other realm. He has something of the freedom of the other realm. He is free from dimensions. There's a part of him that's free from the material, that is free from the physical. It is free from the limitations and, I would almost say, the fears of confinement to this planet. He can see the unseen. He can see the invisibles. He can see the spirituals, and he can talk face to face with God unafraid. He knows who his Lord is. He knows who his God is. I think he probably recognized Gabriel. He also knew the animals. He is very wise. He could tell you the plants. He was there to rule.

This is the wonderful thing, and don't you ever forget it: He is the only creature that belongs to both realms. Now, because that other realm is unlimited and has no dimension, he has access to it. Maybe not out there, but in here. He can enter here and get into that realm. You can't say where the door is. Never say where the door is. You never know where the door is. Now I'm telling you that this creature called Adam, red man, part spiritual, part of the realm, and he was my grandfather. I'm kin to him. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. There is kinship between that spirit in him. There is some kinship, some relationship, if not kinship, some matching, some identity between that spirit and that God who stands before him, invisible, spiritual, and the highest form of Life.

Well, let's go to our biological chart now. What do you see? You see God, holy, spiritual, nothing physical about Him. Spirit and the highest Life, called eternal Life. Here is angelic life, everlasting life, which belongs to the other sphere, also light, and also life belonging to the other realm, everlasting life. It's going to go on forever, but it had a beginning. And here is man's life, and I can't tell you, I don't know. I don't have the wisdom to tell you, but it seems as though that life could go on forever, or it could be terminated. The power rests with a man and his own choice.

Boy, I'm going to really leap here into something that I may not even be right about. There's a possibility that he could have been heir not only to everlasting life, but he could have even been heir to eternal Life. Meaning he not only might have been able to go this way forever, but he might also have been able to go that way forever. But if we can understand things that have no dimension, Betty, did you understand that? That didn't make a whole lot of sense, did it? We are the inheritors of everlasting life, and I'm playing here; I don't know. I'm in fact...I'm conjecturing. But you know, when the Lord Jesus grew up as a little kid, He didn't know everything. He gradually came into consciousness of what He was, and He gradually came into consciousness of what He had been. And His eternal life began to move both ways. If you will notice, watch this. When you read the gospels, as He moves toward the cross and He becomes utterly and totally mature, you sometimes don't know who's talking. You don't know if it's the Father or the Son. It gets really cloudy in there right toward the very, very end. He is wholly at one with His history.

Well, I'm really off the subject. Let me come back to my point. This one is the third-highest form of life. He is physical and spiritual. He belongs to both realms. He has a life; he has a spirit within him that may be subject to termination. We will never know what might have happened if he had just done what the Lord had told him to do, which was to sit down and have a good meal off the Tree of Life. Something he never got around to doing. His schedule got full, and he didn't quite make it. Here, he is very much like the animals, and in the material realm, he has a soul. He can think very much like God and the angels. He belongs to the other realm.

A very interesting creature, is he not? His destiny is incomplete at this point. He is the third highest on the biological chart. He is the first highest on the chart of beings that are material. Do you understand that? Of beings that are visible, he is number one. Of beings that are invisible, he is number three because a portion of him is invisible. The spiritual beings, he's number three. The physical beings, he's number one, but on the biological chart we're looking at, he falls into number three. His destiny is not complete. In fact, God has prepared for him a destiny unique to biology.

As Christians, we do not believe that one form of life can mutate or evolve into another form of life. We do not believe in biological evolution. Did you know that? We don't believe we came up from the apes, but I'm here to tell you that God believed in evolution: a spiritual evolution. A cow never became an ape. A bird never became a dog. But God had intended for the third-highest form of life to move past the second-highest form of life and join him on the highest plane of life. He

intended for man to come up to the top of the biological chart and join him as the literal sons of God. You can't be a son of anything without having the life of that one.

I am the son of JC Edwards because I have his life. I am not the son of a king or a queen or a peasant somewhere. I don't have their life. Nor am I the son of a fish because I have no life of the fish. I've often said, and I always get a laugh for this. I'm always surprised at it. There are two forms of life that have no navel, that have no navel, and there are only two forms of life that were ever called sons of God. There were reasons for it. The angels have no navels. They have no navels, and they never have kids, and they didn't have daddies. When they turned around to see who it was that had fathered them, they turned around, and they saw the face of God. He had come from their hands. Adam had no navel. When he turned around to look, he had no father. God had created him. Angels are called sons of God, and Adam is called a son of God, or the son of God, because they had fallen from the hand of God. The only one they knew was God, but even that is a created thing. Even that kind of relationship was a created thing, but God had intended for something uncreated to happen to Adam. He had intended for Adam to take within himself that life He uniquely named eternal Life, which is a name for the Life of God. God's biological life form is called eternal life. That's a biological name. The highest form of life in the universe was destined to be put within the spirit of man. That's why God gave him something in his being that was from the other realm so he could impregnate it with His own life.

Well, just to quickly say, to wrap that up, saints, that was Adam's destiny before the fall. He was supposed to become something visible, very much like that which was in the realm of the invisibles. God was in the business of demonstrating physically. God was making an image, and He was going to turn that image into a visible reality of what He was. Now, does that sound foreign to you that God was about to make a visible reality that could be seen of what He was? Well, don't let it sound foreign to you because we Christians call it the incarnation. It did come. We'll get to that in a minute. Brother.

Audience: I just had a question. Was Adam's spirit eternal life, or was Adam's spirit the container for it?

Oh, he did not have eternal life. Adam had something from heaven, but not from the nature of God. You can call it (Adam's spirit) a bucket if you wish, and God was going to be put in the bucket. Okay, right now I would concentrate somewhere else. I want you to know that the human being was supposed to come equipped with a segment of himself that was part of another realm. That's the part I'm driving home right now. We'll get to the bucket later.

Okay. I want you to be impressed that you got part of you that can go through that door. Part of you has a right to the other realm. Well, you getting that? Are you folks out there in video land getting this? You have a right to another realm, and our God made His life available, digestible, and partakable of...there's no such word, but partakable of...When He put Adam before the tree of life. It's the Tree of Eternal Life, and Adam never ate. He never partook of the divine nature,

and therefore, his spirit never contained the spirit of God. He never got a hold of the highest form of life.

Well, let's just look at this for a moment. Would you answer this out loud? By what form of life does God live? Alright, give me another word for it. Uncreated life. Eternal life. God lives by the life of God. Now, if God gets up this morning and gets out of bed, He does it by the means and the power and the unction and the source of divine life. If an angel lives by a life form, by what form of life does he live? Created life that is angelic life, and if he gets up and gets out of bed, he does it by the source and the power and the unction and the dynamic of angelic life that belongs to another realm. Now, when Adam got up in the morning, by what form of life did he live? Human life. Absolutely. By the life of the human soul, reinforced by his spirit, but the center of his being is definitely the soul. I know we don't realize this. We don't like this word, but the center of him was his psyche, his psychology. He lived by human life. What did the dog live by? Dog life. And if he got up and got out of bed in the morning, he got up and got out of bed by dog life. Birds flew by bird life. Fish swam by fish life, and the seeds grew by our seed life, herb life. Herbal.

Angels have got to move like lightning, and God has to be God. Man was not destined to stay in the shape he was in at that time. He was the only one who was in transition. He was the only one who could switch biological planes. He's the only one who ever has or ever will or ever could. He lived by his soul. I want you to look at man now, and I want you to see at the center of him his soul. The spirit is accessory, and his body is his container. Makes him visible. Allows him to speak, talk, and fellowship with the animals and with God. This creature is wonderful. He moves over here in fellowship with the visible, moves over here in fellowship with the invisible. What a creature. I know you're jealous, but in his relationship to God, he faced God and communicated with God with his spirit, and by his implanted spirit, an indwelling human spirit, he was able to see God and speak to God through the spiritual part of his being. But they were separate, and it was, in some way, an objective relationship. They were outside of one another. Whereas the Godhead fellowshiped within himself and could also fellowship with those outside, but there was only divine life. It was confined to the Godhead.

Audience: Do you mean that human life was facing divine life rather than intermingling?

Right. There was no, it was objective. It was still just a what-you-could-see-and-talk-to-one-another relationship. Somehow, there was distance. Whereas within God, there was this relationship between them. As wonderful as it was, I vow it was two creatures, definitely, and they were talking to one another.

Now then, I'm going to tell you a little parable. This is a parable. One day, a tree growing by the ocean looks out into the ocean and says, "I can't move. I wish I could move like the fish." And God says, "Alright, tree. I'll make you a fish." And so, the tree became a fish and could swim through the ocean. He was so happy he could move around. One day, he saw a bird fly over, and he said, "I'm confined to the depths of the ocean. I cannot get out into the air and space. I wish I could fly

like a bird." So, God says to the fish, "I'll let you be a bird." And so, he raises him one life form, and the fish can fly. He becomes a bird, and he flies everywhere.

And he sees the animals, and they're playing upon the earth, and he sees that they have so much more capacity than he does to discern and understand, and he says, "I wish I were that smart. I wish I could be a dog or a cat." And so, the Lord makes him one of the animals, and he's so happy until he meets man. He meets a man, and he sees such a higher intelligence. He sees such an enormous capacity to think, and he sees him even being able to see things he cannot see and understand things he cannot understand, and he longs to be what a man is. And God says, "I will grant you the wish. I'll let you be a human being." But the moment he becomes a human being, he realizes there is a greater longing within that being than any other, a greater dissatisfaction than any other creature, because that human being is not what he was intended to be. There is within him an enormous unsatisfied longing, and he looks into the heavens, and he sees the face of God, and he doesn't even ask because he knows he could never be like that.

And yet that was the very intention of God, to take him by the hand and not raise him up to be equal to the angels, but to raise him above the angels and make him a son of God, sharing the life of God. And until man lays hold of that which he was intended to have, there will be no peace. I'll go further and say, until man who has that Life in him is told he's got it and is shown his inheritance, he will continue almost as one who has not got that Life at all. And the purpose of God was to take that which was a little lower than the angels and make him a son of God.

For a time, the Lord Jesus Christ was made a little lower than the angels. He was made a man. But you cannot say that today the Lord Jesus Christ is a little lower than angels, for they fall at His feet and worship Him. Now what did He come to do? Did He come to rectify the fall, or did He come to fulfill his original purpose? He came, didn't get what He meant to have, and that is to take this transitory creature who never reached His proper destiny and take Him and put Him where He belongs.

Now then, that comes, of course, to the next story. I think we'd better quit. We will come to that next story, and that is what God did. Well, we have to look at the fall, the tragic story of the fall, and then we have to look at what God did do. I'm going to leave you with one simple point. That innocent creature living in the Garden of Eden could see invisible things. He could see the unseen. Don't forget that. And he belonged to both realms, and he was your granddaddy. He was also in transition and was headed for better places still, and I know that if I were given the choice today to be as Adam in his innocence or to be as I am, I'm sure I'd dumbly, stupidly take Adam in his innocence. But Adam, in his innocence, was still in transition, moving towards something higher and better. God had intended to share the highest form of Life with Adam.

Now then, if he had done it, if there had been no fall, we said that God lives by the life form of divinity. Angels live by angelic life. Man lives by soul power, the unfallen soul power of human life, and that is the center area of his being. But if he had eaten of the tree of life, the soul would have moved over. He would have kept his material visible nature, but the soul would have moved

over, and he would have had at the center of his being the same life that God has at the center of his being. He would have had the life of God. He would have had the divine nature at the center of his being.

Now then, if that's true, when Adam got up in the morning, by what life would he live by? He would live by the life of God. He would live, not by his human life, but he would live by divine life. Now I ask you, fellow believer, when you get up in the morning, what is your destiny? Is your destiny to live by soul life? You are a born-again believer, an evangelical, converted, saved, redeemed soul being. By what life are you to live by when you roll out of bed in the morning? Tell me. By the life of God, by the highest form of Life in the universe. It is by that life you live. The Lord Jesus Christ said, *I have come to give you eternal life and give it to you in abundance. I have come that you might live by eternal life, by eternal life.* And that's the heart and core of the gospel.

All we have to do is discover that life is in us and then discover how to live by that life; it will not be by prayer, Bible study, tithing, or speaking in tongues. I'm sorry to disappoint the Bible scholars, the charismatics, and those who are committed to knowing the Bible. I am illiterate. I cannot read or write. I have a right to the life of God within me. I don't happen to speak in tongues. I have a right to the life of God within me. When I pray, I fall asleep, and furthermore, I find prayer to be the most boring thing in the world outside of watching a washing machine tumble dry. If you're going to pan off on me present-day prayer, that will be my forever attitude. But if you can show me a fellowship of the Father and the Son and give me a right to that, I might make a little progress as a Christian. A little bit. Just a little. Not a lot, but a little. Praise the Lord.

This is a new ocean, and we must sail upon it. This is a new realm, and we have a right to enter it, and this is his Life, and we have a right to live by that Life. Yes, I'm fallen. Yes, I've got problems, and I will keep them till the day I die, but I deserve better than this as a son of God. As a son of God, as one redeemed and elected before the foundation of the ages. I deserve better than "Gene, do this. Gene, don't do this. Gene, you be a good Christian. Behave yourself. And Gene, read your Bible. I don't like to read my Bible. Gene, pray. I don't like to read. I don't like to pray. Gene, behave. I can't behave." To ask me to behave and be good is the same as asking that bird to be a dog. The demands that have been laid upon me are demands for a life form not my own. To show me the life of Jesus Christ and say now go imitate that is to tell a pig to sit down at an eight-course meal and use silverware. You're making demands of a pig that are not its form of life, and to say be like Jesus is pure, unadulterated foolishness. It's the wrong form of life. I can't do it. All I can do is lay hold of a life not my own and learn to let that life live.

Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. What liberation. Give me a handle on that. Let me run with it. Well, I intend to give you two handles. You're going to love one; you're going to hate the other one.

Lord Jesus, open the eyes of our understanding. That we might see the unseen, and that we might know what it is we are in Christ Jesus. Amen. Amen. Praise the Lord.