

# OUTLINE • 5.1

I. I can't overemphasize how essential the Word of God is in discovering our spiritual identity and finding God's will for our lives.

A. The Bible reveals things to us that we could never figure out on our own.

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

HEBREWS 4:12

B. Functionally, most people think the soul and spirit are the same, but the spirit is the part of us that was born again when we believed in Jesus.

i. Our spirits are identical to Jesus.

ii. We have gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22-23) in our spirits.

iii. We also have the mind of Christ and an unction from the Holy Spirit and know all things (1 Cor. 2:16 and 1 John 2:20).

C. The soul isn't made completely new when we are born again—our spirits are.

D. The only way we can know what we have in our spirits is through the Word of God—it will divide between soul and spirit.

E. Finding God's will is really as simple as discerning whether our feelings are coming from the spirit or the flesh.

F. It's simple, but it isn't easy, because most of us don't know what is true in our spirits.

II. The Apostle John wrote that as Jesus is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17).

A. Our physical bodies aren't like Jesus, but our *spirits* are identical to Him.

B. As humans, we tend to assume that if our spirits are identical to Jesus, we would just know it somehow, but that's not true.

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14

C. Our little "peanut" brains don't know what happened to our spirits when we were born again, *so our intellect doesn't know our spiritual identity.*

D. Some things can only be discerned spiritually.

- III. Jesus told His disciples, “*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*” (John 6:63).
- A. If we don’t know the Word of God, we won’t know who we are in our spirits.
  - B. Our physical senses will dominate us, even though the whole time we have living inside of us the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead (Rom. 8:9 with Eph. 1:19-20).
  - C. The only way we are going to get what is in our spirits to flow out into our lives is by letting the Word of God speak to us and direct us.
  - D. Understanding the makeup of the spirit, soul, and body will transform our lives<sup>1</sup>, because many of us are begging God for results instead of taking the Word of God and finding out our identity in Christ and using the Word like a sword.
- IV. In 2 Peter 1:1, “*like precious faith*” in the Greek means identical faith.
- A. Everyone who has been born again has as much faith as Peter had.
    - i. Peter walked on water (Matt. 14:29).
    - ii. He saw Dorcas raised from the dead (Acts 9:39-40).
    - iii. His shadow healed people as it passed over them (Acts 5:15).
  - B. Somebody might say “Yeah, I have faith, but it’s just in little seed form. It hasn’t grown yet,” but your faith isn’t growing—you already have the fullness of faith on the inside.
  - C. The way your faith becomes effectual, or the way it begins to work, is by *acknowledging what you already have* (Philem. 6).
  - D. You don’t need more faith; you need to realize that *you already have faith*.
- V. *Grace and peace are multiplied through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ* (2 Pet. 1:2-4).
- A. It doesn’t matter how much you pray—you can have people pray for you until they rub all the hair off the top of your head—but you still won’t have God’s peace until you renew your mind.
  - B. You can’t operate contrary to your dominant thoughts.
  - C. God keeps you in perfect peace when you keep your mind focused on Jesus (Is. 26:3).
- VI. Notice that the Scripture says God *has* given us *all things* according to the knowledge of Him (2 Pet. 1:3).
- A. We receive all the fullness of God through salvation and experience it by renewing our minds with the Word of God.

- B. In a sense, any problems we have in life are knowledge problems.
  - C. Jesus said that He came to give us life and to give it abundantly (John 10:10)—and everything that it takes to have an abundant life comes through knowing God: healing, joy, peace, prosperity, abundance, vision, and every blessing.
  - D. But the promise of everything coming through the knowledge of God assumes that we are going to act on the knowledge we have.
    - i. Prosperity, for instance, comes when we know what the Word says and act on that knowledge.
    - ii. Likewise, we have health in our bodies when we know that Jesus provided healing on the cross and take the steps to receive what the Lord has already provided.
- VII. No problem exists that is bigger than God's supply.
- A. We just need to get away from being pressed into thinking the way the world thinks and renew our minds to the truth that *nothing is impossible for God!*
  - B. We have to stop believing who the world says we are and find out who God says we are.
  - C. We will find our spiritual identity in God's Word.

*Andrew's Recommendations for Further Study:*

I encourage you to get my teaching *Spirit, Soul & Body*. It goes into a lot more detail on this than I'm able to cover here and is foundational to understanding this.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 5.1

1. True or false: Without the Bible, you could still figure things out on your own.
2. What is the part of you that was born again when you believed in Jesus?
  - A. Your spirit
  - B. Your soul
  - C. Your body
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
3. Your spirit is identical to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. True or false: The soul isn't made completely new when you are born again.
5. Why is the Word of God the only way you can know what you have in your spirit?

---

---

---

6. Discussion question: How do you know that finding God's will is really as simple as discerning whether our feelings are coming from the spirit or the flesh?

---

---

---

7. Read 1 John 4:17. As Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, so are you in this world.

8. True or false: Your body is like Jesus'.

9. What is a human assumption?

---

---

---

10. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. Some things can only be discerned how?

- A. Mathematically
- B. Spiritually
- C. Carnally
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

11. Read John 6:63. If you don't know the Word of God, you won't know what?

---

---

---

12. Read Romans 8:9 with Ephesians 1:19-20. What else will happen if you don't know the Word of God?

---

---

---

13. Discussion question: What are some things the Word of God has shown you about who you are?

---

---

---

14. Read 2 Peter 1:1. What does "*like precious faith*" mean?

---

---

---

15. Are there miracles Peter did that you can't do?

---

---

---

16. According to Philemon 6, the way to make your faith effectual is by \_\_\_\_\_ what you already have.

17. Read 2 Peter 1:2-4. Why won't you have peace until you renew your mind?
- A. Because peace is added through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - B. Because peace is earned through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - C. Because peace is multiplied through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - D. Because peace is lost through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - E. Because peace is divided through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ

18. Discussion question: Why do you think you can't operate contrary to your dominant thoughts?

---

---

---

19. True or false: You receive part of the fullness of God through salvation and experience it by renewing your mind with the Word of God.

20. The promise of everything coming through the knowledge of God assumes what?
- A. That you are going to act on the knowledge you have
  - B. That you know more than what you currently do
  - C. That knowledge of the Word is easy to attain
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

21. Discussion question: Why is it important to renew your mind to the truth that nothing is impossible for God?

---

---

---

22. What do you need to stop believing?

---

---

---

# SCRIPTURES • 5.1

## **HEBREWS 4:12**

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## **GALATIANS 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

## **1 CORINTHIANS 2:16**

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

## **1 JOHN 2:20**

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

## **1 JOHN 4:17**

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

## **1 CORINTHIANS 2:14**

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

## **JOHN 6:63**

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

## **ROMANS 8:9**

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

## **EPHESIANS 1:19-20**

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

**2 PETER 1:1-4**

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: [2] Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**MATTHEW 14:29**

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

**ACTS 9:39-40**

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. [40] But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

**ACTS 5:15**

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

**PHILEMON 6**

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

**ROMANS 12:3**

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

**GALATIANS 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**LUKE 17:5-10**

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. [6] And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. [7] But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? [8] And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? [9] Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. [10] So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

**ISAIAH 26:3**

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

**JOHN 10:10**

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

**ACTS 10:38**

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

**JAMES 2:20**

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?