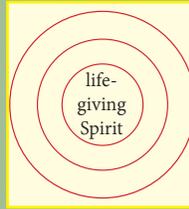


5. BEING BORN AGAIN

Christ took sin, which separated man from God, upon Himself and became the life-giving Spirit, through which man can now take in God's eternal life into his own life. The Bible calls this "becoming reborn".¹⁴ To become reborn, we must first recognize that we are sinners. Then we can accept in faith Christ's work of deliverance by simply speaking a prayer with an open, sincere heart. For example:

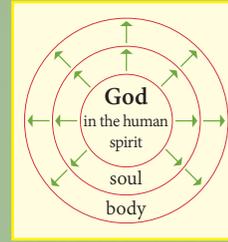


"Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. I need you. I thank you, that you sacrificed your life even for me. Lord Jesus, forgive me and cleanse me from all my sins. I truly believe that you arose from the dead; and now I accept you as my saviour and my life. Come into my heart and fill me with your life. Lord Jesus, lead me according to your will."

6. GOD'S COMPLETE WORK OF SALVATION

Baptism follows after salvation and rebirth of our spirit.¹⁶ Now God begins to expand into the soul and to dwell there, after having first filled the spirit.¹⁷ This process, which the Bible calls salvation, transformation or renewal¹⁸, continues throughout

our entire life. Our cooperation is necessary, for we must allow the Lord to expand within our soul until our wishes, our thoughts and decisions all coincide with His. When Christ returns to earth, God will fill our bodies, too, with His life. Man will no longer be empty and useless before God, but will regain his original condition, glorified, as the Bible promises: "...the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body..."²⁰



¹⁴ 1 Peter 1:3;
John 3:3

¹⁶ Mark 16:16
¹⁷ Ephesians 3:17

¹⁵ Acts 16:31-33

¹⁸ 1.Peter 1:9;

Romans 12:2

¹⁹ Philippians 2:12-13

²⁰ Philippians 3:21

The Purpose of Human Life

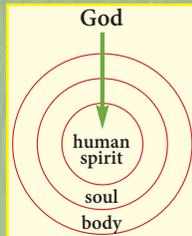
We have all asked ourselves at one time or another why we are living in this world and what the purpose of our life is. The following text will sketch out briefly what the Bible has to say to us. If we understand that, we have the answer to the question of the purpose of our life.

1. GOD'S PLAN

God's wish is to be expressed through man. This is why He created man in His own image.¹ Just as a glove is made to fit the hand, man was formed in God's likeness. And, as a glove takes in the hand and is enlivened by it, man was formed to take in God and be filled and enlivened by Him.

2. MAN (THE HUMAN BEING)

God created man as a vessel² with three parts: body, soul, and spirit.³ The body is material and relates to the physical world. The soul (psyche) enables us to relate to other persons. Through it we can think, feel, wish, plan, and process all that we perceive of the world around us. Man's spirit, however, his innermost capacity (not to be confused with the mind, which belongs to the soul), was

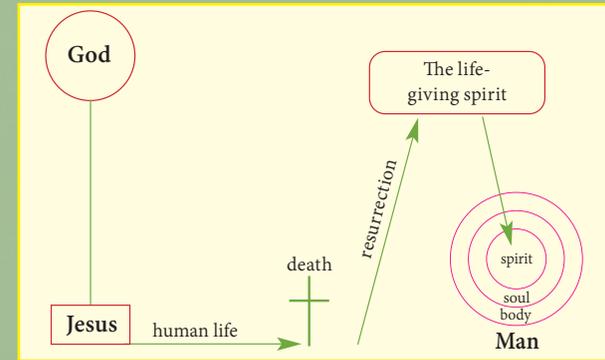
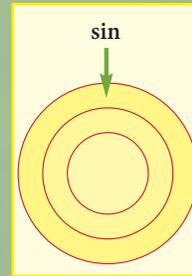


created by God to take Him in and there within to communicate with Him and praise Him.⁴ Man was therefore ultimately intended to take in God, who is pure Spirit, into his own spirit. Only then can man build up a genuine relationship to God.

3. MAN'S DOWNFALL

In the beginning man was created neutral, that is, God's Spirit did not yet dwell within him. Before he could take in God – Who is Spirit and eternal life itself – into his own spirit, sin entered him.

Through sin his spirit died and he forfeited his relationship to God. His soul, indeed, the entire function of thinking, became indifferent to God, his Creator. Man became ever more defiant and his body became sinful flesh.⁷ Thus sin ruined man completely – body, soul and spirit – and estranged him from God. Man's spirit was now without function and in God's eyes he was in effect dead. This is our situation even today. It is understandable that God cannot bind Himself to man in this condition. Something must change.



4. CHRIST BROUGHT SALVATION, SO THAT GOD COULD ENTER MAN

Man's downfall could not hinder God entirely in the fulfillment of His original plan. God loves humans, but He cannot simply overlook their sinful nature, because He is righteous. Therefore, God took on human form⁸ in Jesus Christ, Who, in order to save us, died on the cross for our sins.⁹ He took our sins upon Himself¹⁰ and annihilated them in His death, thus making our path to God free again.¹¹ Through His resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit, Who can now bring godly, eternal life into our lives. We can experience Him directly.

¹ Genesis 1:26

² Romans 9:21-24;

³ 2 Corinthians 4:7

⁴ 1.Thessalonias 5:23

⁵ John 4:24

⁶ Romans 5:12

⁷ Ephesians 2:1

⁸ Genesis 6:3

⁹ John 1:1, 14

¹⁰ Ephesians 1:7

¹¹ John 1:29

¹² Ephesians 2:13, 18

¹³ 1 Corinthians 15:45

¹⁴ John 20:22; 3:6