

The Mingled Spirit

*But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
1 Corinthians 6:17*

1. God is Spirit

John 4:24a

God is Spirit...

1 Corinthians 15:45b

...the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

2. Man has a spirit

Zechariah 12:1

The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. *Thus* declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

3. At regeneration the two spirits become one mingled spirit

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

4. Living and walking according to the mingled spirit

John 4:24

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

Romans 8:4

That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

The Mingled Spirit

God is Spirit

John 4:24 says that "God is Spirit." Saying that God is Spirit is similar to saying that a chair is wood. Wood refers to the essence, the substance, of the chair. Thus, God is Spirit does not refer to the person of God but denotes God's essence, substance. This was spoken by the Lord in John 4 to the Samaritan woman concerning the worship of God. In order to worship God, we have to realize that the One whom we are worshipping is Spirit in essence, in substance.¹

Man has a spirit

God is Spirit for man to contact Him and receive Him into man, and man has a spirit for man to contact God and contain God that God and man may have an organic union (John 4:24; 2 Tim. 4:22a). If God were not the Spirit, He could not contact us, and we could not contact Him. God the Father is the source; God the Son is the course; and God the Spirit is the flow to reach us (2 Cor. 13:14). Thus, the Spirit is the reaching of the Divine Trinity to man. God reaches us in the Son as the Spirit. Ephesians 2:18 says, "For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father." The Spirit is the access for us to contact God, receive God, and contain God.²

The Bible reveals that man's spirit is distinct from his soul (Heb. 4:12; 1 Thes. 5:23a). Our experience also tells us this. According to our mind, we may feel to buy something. We may really like it and desire to have it according to our emotion. Then we may decide to get it according to our will. Thus, our mind thinks about it in a good way, our emotion loves it, and our will determines to get it. At this juncture, however, there is something else deep within that tells us not to get it. This is our spirit, the deepest and inmost part of our being. This is the distinction between the soul and the spirit.³

Now we want to see the importance of our spirit. In the whole universe, firstly God is important to us. God has the preeminence. Besides God nothing is as important as our human spirit. For something to be important means that it is indispensable, that you must have it. With all other things

besides God and besides our spirit, we have a choice. Whether or not we have them is not vitally important. But we must have God and our human spirit. Firstly, God is the Spirit to us. Then we have a human spirit to contact God the Spirit, to receive Him, and to contain Him. He lives in our spirit to be one with us.⁵

At regeneration the two spirits become one mingled spirit

Through regeneration our deadened spirit was enlivened and resurrected. Now the all-inclusive Spirit dwells in our spirit and has mingled Himself with our spirit, making us one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17). Although human words cannot adequately define this mingling, it is nevertheless a fact that God as the Spirit has mingled Himself with our spirit to produce one mingled spirit.

The mingled spirit is a mystery. Paul purposely composed Romans 8 in a simple way so that we could understand his utterance, yet the reality that he describes is

God as the Spirit has mingled Himself with our spirit.

mysterious and abstract to the uttermost. Even our physical body and the life within it are mysterious. Our psychological being, including our heart, mind, emotion, and will, is even

more mysterious. We cannot physically locate these parts, yet we know that they are within us. We also have a human spirit, which is abstract and mysterious. Now that we are saved, we have something more mysterious within us—the Triune God as the Spirit mingling Himself with our spirit to be one mingled spirit.

Romans 8:4 says, "That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit." Bible translators have had difficulty discerning whether the spirit mentioned in this verse is the divine Spirit or the human spirit. We need to see that in Romans 8, the Spirit is no longer merely the Spirit of God, as He was in creation (Gen. 1:2), but also the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of the resurrecting One. Furthermore, this all-inclusive Spirit is mingled with our spirit. Romans 8:16, which says, "The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit," mentions the two spirits together. Thus, the spirit in verse 4 refers

Key Verses

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

1 Thess. 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit

not merely to the divine Spirit or the human spirit but to these two spirits mingled together as one spirit. Every believer has such a mingled spirit.

Both His incarnation, which joined God with man, and His death and resurrection, which brought man into God to be united with Him, are realized in the Spirit. We must now contact this Spirit. Therefore, He clearly said that we need to contact Him with our spirit. Only when we are in spirit can we contact the Spirit. The more a man uses his mind to consider, ponder, and make judgments, the less he touches God. Our contact with man requires that we be sincere and truthful, but our contact with God requires that we turn to our spirit. Since our God is Spirit, and He is in our spirit, we can contact Him only with our spirit when we turn to our spirit.⁶

Living and walking according to the mingled spirit

According to Romans 8:4, we should walk not according to scriptural doctrines or regulations but according to the mingled spirit that is within us and is even a part of our being. The Greek word for *walk* in verse 4 refers to the general walk in our daily living, including our eating, dressing, marriage life, family life, school life, job life, and church life. We must have our being according to the mingled spirit.

We do not need to try to fully understand what or where the mingled spirit is. We cannot fully understand our psychological heart, yet we know that we have such a heart because of the feelings it gives us. In the same principle, we know that we have a mingled spirit within because we sense its function. Perhaps when we are speaking with our spouse, something within us does not agree with us. When we are considering whether to buy a certain item, something within us may say, "Do not buy it. Do not consider it any further." Before we were saved, we did not have this kind of experience. Whenever we wanted to do something, such as go shopping, we would simply do it and would not be bothered. However, since being saved, we often sense a speaking within. This is the mingled spirit. Instead of trying to fully understand the mingled spirit, we simply need to believe that we have a mingled spirit and walk according to the mingled spirit in every area of our life. We need to have every corner and avenue of our being according to this spirit.⁷

Assignment 1

With a partner, practice proving with Bible verses that you have a human spirit.

Assignment 2

Spend a few minutes to pray that the Lord would teach you to live and walk by your mingled spirit.

Additional Daily Verses

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
John 4:24	1 Corinthians 15:45	Zechariah 12:1, 1 Cor. 2:11	1 Thessalonians 5:23	1 Cor 6:17	2 Timothy 4:22	Romans 8:4

Weekly Memorization Verses

Romans 8:4

That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.