

Message #122 of *Scripture Beneath The Surface*
“Spirit Driven, Not Purpose Driven”

With Randy Smith
(269) 763-2114

Preparation Ministries, Inc

PO BOX 475 OLIVET, MI 49076

preparationministries@gmail.com

(Please feel free to call, or send messages)

Web Site: <http://www.preparationministries.net>

Broadcast Schedule

WOLY AM 1500 - Battle Creek, Sat. 10am - Sun. 9:30am

WLQV AM 1500 - Detroit, Sun. 10am

Also, Internet Stream - www.am1500wlqv.com

WFPM

99.5 FM in Battle Creek - Fri. 3:30pm

99.9 FM in Albion - Fri. 3:30pm

103.7 FM in Jackson - Fri. 3:30pm

Also, Internet Stream - www.wfpmradio.org

Hello! Thanks for being with us. Today I'd like to talk about the difference between being Spirit driven and being purpose driven. Now, purpose driven, is a term which has become quite popular in the churches of today. Purpose driven means that your final goal guides your actions. However, having your purpose guide your actions is contrary to the ways of God. God's way is not the purpose driven way where the purpose drives your actions. God's way is the Spirit driven way, which means that your final goal is totally dependent on what the Holy Spirit prompts you to do, whether it seems to make sense from man's logical view or not. God's ways are past finding out, but his ways are always far above man's ways. And, God's Holy Spirit will always line up perfectly with his holy word. Man's logic cannot make that claim.

Let me just say something right up front concerning the purpose driven concept. Being purpose driven is a good thing when your purpose is to accomplish God's will by God's power. Purpose driven is a bad thing when your purpose is trying to accomplish God's will through the powers of this earth. Quite plainly, God is the Almighty God. And, being Almighty God means that he is in the drivers seat. Because God is the Almighty God, we don't drive his car. He drives our car. We don't accomplish his ministry, he accomplishes his ministry through us. And, the way God accomplishes his goals is not by our earthly methods, but by the moving of his Holy Spirit.

There's a lot of talk today about setting goals and accomplishing them by devising programs or methods which will get the greatest result. However, there is a major error along these lines when we do this. God isn't looking for someone to show him how to accomplish his will.

Believe it or not, he already knows how to do this. All he's doing is looking for people who will allow him to do it his way instead of trying to figure out how they can do it their way. He already had devised the way to accomplish his works at the foundation of the world. It is by his Holy Spirit that eternal things are accomplished.

Now, that might seem confusing, but think about this. Whose purpose are you trying to accomplish? Is it God's purpose, or is it your purpose? No, I'm not against setting goals in your life, but I am against setting goals for God, or for trying to bring God's work to pass through your own intellectual reasoning. One of the greatest barriers to church ministry today is the temptation to take up the work of God and accomplish it by humanistic means. Humans can accomplish nothing in themselves. God is the Almighty God. Almighty means all powerful. It means to be omnipotent. It means to be the one chief God who has all the power and all the might.

When God wants to do something, he wants to do it his way. He doesn't want to do it your way. It seems that in today's church Christians have come to think that they can figure out how to accomplish God's will. Scripture is very clear when it says that the sons of God are those who are led by God's Holy Spirit. And, it is only by being led of the Holy Spirit that we can accomplish anything in an eternal sense. We know that the Holy Spirit gives testimony to Almighty God in everything he does.

When God desires to move anyone on this earth he moves them by his Spirit. Did you get what I said? It is the Holy Spirit of God that moves anything and everything, and it is the Holy Spirit of God that moves you to do his will. You're not going to accomplish God's will unless the Holy Spirit moves you. Now, think what this means. Whatever you say and whatever you do will be said and done according to the spirit that moves you to do it or say it.

I know this is a difficult concept for Christians, but you must remember that the Holy Spirit is at the very center of God's work. And, it is his Spirit that causes his will and the end result to come together. In order to fully comprehend how important it is to let the Holy Spirit be the force behind all of God's work, it is helpful to recognize the principle of being a three part being. We are three part beings just as God is a three-part being. And just as God is a living being, and also has a spirit, and also has manifested himself to the world in bodily form, so are we also living beings who have spirits, and are also manifested to the world in bodily form. God is three persons in one. He is a living soul, he is Spirit, and has also manifested himself in bodily form. We are also three persons in one. Our minds contain the thoughts of our living soul. We think, we have desires, we make choices, we contemplate knowledge. All this is our living being, our soul. But we also have a body in physical form that can be recognized and comprehended by other physical forms. Our body is that part of us which outwardly demonstrates the thoughts, convictions, and intents of our heart.

But what I want you to really concentrate on today is that you also have that third part which is your spirit. And that spirit within you is either holy or wicked. If the spirit within you is good it

will drive you to words and actions that are good. If the spirit within you is bad it will drive you to words and actions that are bad. Your spirit moves you to words and actions according to what it finds in your heart. Your spirit does the same thing in you that God's Holy Spirit does in him. Your spirit looks into your thoughts, and when it finds thoughts and convictions that are in line with it, it can then receive the authority to move your body accordingly. If the thoughts and convictions of your mind are evil, it will be an evil spirit which will be empowered to move your body. This really is not that difficult to comprehend. Just think about. If you really like bad things, it will be an evil spirit that makes its home in you. And, that same bad spirit will move you. It will cause you to say things you should not say, and do things you should not do.

Although there is general understanding that we humans are body, soul, and spirit, there is a significant lack of understanding of how the three separate parts work together. But the soul of a man does not speak directly to another human being. It is the body part of a man which does the speaking. The soul only embodies the thoughts and convictions of the heart. The soul is the life of the person. The thoughts and convictions of the heart make up the form of existence of the person. But it is the body which takes those thoughts and convictions and demonstrates them outwardly to the world. This is what Jesus did on earth. Jesus was the body of God. God manifested himself to the world in his bodily form in order that the world might come to know him. This is actually what you do when you speak to another person. The other person cannot see the thoughts and convictions of your heart, but when you speak words, that other person hears you speak and then can comprehend what you think and feel inside. Your mind is the embodiment of all the thoughts, beliefs, and convictions within you. Your thoughts, beliefs, and convictions describe who and what you are. When you use your body to say or do something, this reveals your thoughts, beliefs, and convictions to other people. Without your body they would have no way of knowing what is hidden deep within you. The deep hidden things of your soul cannot be revealed to others without your body.

Now, it is the third part of you, your spirit, which is significant for today's topic. Just as the Bible tells us that God's Holy Spirit seeks the deep hidden things of God in order to reveal them to men, our spirit seeks what is hidden in our own soul, and reveals it to others. However, we know that the spirit cannot reveal what it finds in our heart by itself, but must reveal it through our body. It is the body that other people see. So therefore, when our spirit seeks out the hidden things of our heart, it must reveal them by moving our body to respond accordingly. The spirit within us is the liaison between the soul part of us and the body part of us. Our spirit is that third part of us which searches for the thoughts, beliefs, and convictions of our hearts and then moves our body to act or speak accordingly.

Our soul is our existence. We exist, so therefore we are called a living soul. We are alive. And because we are alive, we have thoughts. Because we think about things, we therefore make determinations about things. We determine what we like and what we dislike. We determine what we think is good and what is bad. And because we believe that certain things are good and that certain things are bad, then we have desire for that which is good. All these thoughts make up who we really are. A soul is just, basically, something that is alive. But just as humans are

born as babies and then develop into adults, the soul also develops as it increases knowledge. Therefore, our soul is not only just alive, but is the embodiment of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Think of it this way. When you are growing up you get all kinds of information coming into your brain. You see things and hear things and experience things, and from all these things that you see, hear, and experience, you make judgments. You make determinations of what you like and what you don't like. You might eat brussels sprouts one day and decide you hate brussels sprouts. So then this becomes one small part of your overall makeup, or just one small aspect of you. Of course, this would not describe you completely, but if you put all the aspects of you together it would give a picture of who you really are. This is you. This is all the things that affect you, and which you like or dislike. Yet, even after all this, if you had no body, you would have no way to show others who and what you really are. But once you have a body, then the thoughts, beliefs, and convictions of your heart can be revealed to others.

Now, as I said previously, you must also have that third part of you, your spirit, which can search your soul to find out what you think about this or that, and what you would like to do or not to do. It is your spirit that will take the authority it gets from your soul and use it to move your body to words or actions in the way you want your body to respond.

It is just this simple. The soul is who you really are, your body is the outward demonstration of who you really are, and your spirit is the liaison which finds out how you feel about a certain thing and then moves your body accordingly.

But your spirit is not your mind, any more than your body is your mind. Your spirit does not think for itself, any more than your body thinks for itself. We see this in the concept of Jesus Christ who was God in bodily form. Although there was great temptation to let the his fleshly man have his way, Jesus said that he did not speak his own words or do his own works. He said that he only spoke the words and did the works of his Father. Bodies don't do their own thing. If they did, they would cease having a relationship with their soul. You can easily see this by thinking of our human body in strictly human terms. It is your mind that directs your body. Your body does not work on its own. It must be moved to action by the mind. The spirit within us causes us to exhibit an emotion which is strong enough to bring about the desired reaction in the body. When you say something, it's because you are moved to say something. When you do something, it is because you are moved to do something. You have urges within you, and if the urge is great enough, you respond. Whenever you are presented with an option in life, you will either respond positively or negatively to the option, and this will depend strictly on the thoughts, beliefs, and convictions of your heart.

Therefore, your spirit is at the very center of this process. Think again of the example of brussels sprouts. If you don't like brussels sprouts, and someone offers you some brussels sprouts to eat, the spirit within you will recognize your feelings about brussels sprouts, and because it recognizes that you do not like brussels sprouts, it will move you to demonstrate your choice

outwardly. Out of your mouth will come words such as, “No! I wouldn't care for any, thank you.” It won't be because your soul spoke outwardly, or that your spirit spoke outwardly. But, because your flesh spoke outwardly, the other person will recognize that you do not desire any brussels sprouts. It is just that simple.

Now, pay particular attention to this one detail. Your spirit has absolutely no control over what you think. It only has control over your body depending on what it finds in your mind. Your spirit cannot move your body to eat brussels sprouts if your mind has determined they are bad. Your spirit just seeks your thoughts, beliefs, and convictions in order to gain the authority to move your body. The spirit within you has no authority except the authority that you give to it. And you give that authority to the spirit within you according to what you think. If the spirit within you finds evil desire, then it has the authority to move your body to speak and act in wickedness. If the spirit within you finds a desire for righteousness, it will move your body to speak and act righteously. Your body is controlled by the thoughts, beliefs, and convictions of your heart through the spirit within you, and it is the strongest thoughts, beliefs and convictions which determine which spirit has the authority to move your flesh.

And this is very important. If you want to accomplish good, than the spirit within you must be a good spirit. Therefore, if you want a good spirit within you, then that spirit within you must find good in your heart. No spirit resides within you unless it can find something in your heart that gives it authority to stay there and move your body. The evil spirit of Satan only resides within you if it finds things which line up with Satan. If your heart is overrun with lies, and the important things to you are wicked things, then evil spirits will find that they have a place within you where they can gain the authority to have control over your body.

Evil spirits are empowered by evil thoughts, but thoughts of righteousness prevent them from controlling your body. That's why the Bible tells us that the truth will set you free. Whatever is in your mind will affect how your body acts, because your spirit will find it. If you love God, and love his righteousness, and love his son Jesus, then the spirit which finds a place to work in you will be that Holy Spirit of God. When the Holy Spirit finds the love of God in your heart, it receives authorization to move your body accordingly. However, when Satan's evil spirit finds the love of this world in your heart, it receives authorization to move your body also, but only toward the things of this world. Any spirit found within you will only be there depending on what is in your heart. If you want to change your reactions in this life, you will have to change your thoughts, beliefs, and convictions so that evil spirits will not find something there to empower them.

What is your purpose in life? What is your mind set upon? Is it set upon becoming God's vessel, or is it set upon becoming Satan's vessel? We know that God's Holy Spirit dwells within us when we become born-again Christians. However, his Holy Spirit has no authority within us unless our thoughts, beliefs, and convictions are built upon the foundation of God's word. The Holy Spirit cannot work in you if you give it no authority to work. If you fill your heart with things of this world instead of heavenly things, then the only spirit that will find a dwelling place

in you is that spirit of the world. If you want the spirit from above to dwell within you then you must have the things above in your heart. But, if the heavenly things of God are secondary, and the things of this world are primary, then the evil spirit will have the upper hand and will move in and push the Holy Spirit out.

There is nothing greater to be accomplished than God's will. God's will is accomplished by his Spirit. His Holy Spirit moves his body. If you are part of the body of Christ, then you have the same spirit that Christ has. If you are part of the body of Christ than that Holy Spirit of God dwells within you also. If you are part of the body of Christ you will be moved by the things of God. You will respond to the urging of the Holy Spirit. You will not be able to resist the emotions and desires that are welling up within you, for you are only the body, and not the very soul of God. If you are part of the body of Christ than you will be moved to express yourself according to the things of God, according to the thoughts, beliefs, and convictions of the Almighty God himself.

Just imagine what kind of feelings the Holy Spirit of God puts within you. Just imagine what kind of emotions are created in you when the Holy Spirit begins to move. The feelings and emotions that God's Holy Spirit creates in you are not the feelings and emotions of this world, for the feelings and emotions that are stirred up within you do not come from the same things which stir the hearts of the wicked.

God is not interested in becoming what you want him to be. He is interested in you becoming like him. We are not in the process of creating God. We are in the process of being created to be like God. Your emotions, your desires, your wants, must not be spawned in you from the same spirit that moves the other people of this world. In the same sense, neither can your emotions stem from the same things that causes emotion to rise in earthly minded people. God is holy, which means that he is totally separate from the contamination of this world. When we come to God, we are not to bring the contamination of this world into his presence, but are to shun the world, rejecting it, and therefore come into his presence in a pure state, not dragging the world in behind us. God doesn't need earth's latest style of music, nor earth's latest style of clothes, nor earth's latest style of entertainment to accomplish his work. That would be silly. His work is to take us out of this world in order that we might come to him. He does not call us home by putting the world more firmly in us, but rather, calls us to come home out of the world. If you abide in Christ you will have his Spirit, and you will leave the spirit of this world behind.