

Answers from Revelation

The Nature of God

← "From the forces which bind atomic nuclei to the principles which run giant galaxies, from the fullness of earth to the emptiness of space, from the existence of law to the law of existence, from the beauty of creation to a mind which can comprehend it-- all testify to the power of God."⁹

Omnipotent and omniscient, omnipresent and infinite, God pervades all reaches of the universe. Eternal and unchanging, God has always been and always will be. These intrinsic qualities of the spiritual composition of God advance the spiritual character of God and together they synergize to constitute the Almighty, Most Holy God to whom "be honor and glory forever and ever."

"God" is a family consisting of two members, the Father (the Ancient of Days) and the Word (Christ, His Son.) These two spirit (in composition and character) beings rule the entire universe; together they are the sovereigns of all that has been and is being created. The Father is the Supreme Lawgiver, while the Son is the Executor and Judge of that law. Together they govern all things through the laws the Father commands.

Because God is not the author of chaos, all that is created operates within the framework of laws designed to maintain order and harmony.

"...all of these complex operations are automatic. They have their own thermostat and their own self-starter. They create their own powerhouse and require no engineer to regulate them. There is no wear or tear in their mechanism, no cost for upkeep or repair. Their mechanism has never stopped since they received their first impulse from the Creator. They cause no clang or clutter in the functioning of their magnificent machinery."¹⁷

Such is the intricacy and order of God's creation in both the

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physical and spiritual realms. God rules by laws to which every-
thing must conform. Through their power of the Holy Spirit these
laws are upheld throughout space and time.

in writing it is best to refer to God with singular pronouns except special cases.

The laws created by God are not capricious or arbitrary. The entire complex of laws is based upon the one Supreme Law of Love. God is law and God is love, the two facets of their nature are inseparable from one another and incomplete without one another. God embodies the fullest expression of love in their character. Every action they perform and every thought that they conceive is guided first and foremost by love. The law of love is incorporated into the character of God by the Holy Spirit (Holy because it is God's) and is therefore unchangeable and eternal. God's will (i.e. law within themselves) is to love, and their omnipotence (from the spirit) enforces this will into their thoughts and actions. (for example, God cannot lie or sin, for ^{he} they will not to.)

(It is only through the law of love embedded ^{OK} within ~~their~~ characters that ~~two beings~~ of such power could exist for all time in peace and harmony.) Because love "seeks not its own" Christ has submitted his will to that of the Father's through love. Love is other-centered, its primary concern is for the other person in every situation. Through love the Word recognized that harmony required a single ruler. In the spirit of giving and sharing, the Word gave up the power to rule over the Ancient of Days and submitted to his will. Being of one mind, in absolute agreement, they existed in harmony. Their attitudes were, and are, directed toward giving--toward peacefulness, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, mercy, temperance, meekness, joyfulness, kindness, and truthfulness; the

manifestations of the law of love, the nature of God, engaged within their spiritual character.

It is because of their desire to give that God did not want to limit the God family to only two members. God is a social family. Love requires others to be loved. In their yearning to share the powers that they have, the Ancient of Days and the Word formulated a plan by which physical men could become Gods as they are God. For this purpose they created the entire physical universe as a training and proving ground within which men could build Godly character and acquire the nature of God. Through this plan men will become sons of God with the Ancient of Days as their Father and Christ as their brother. Thus the Family God, the Creator God, the Loving God, and the Governing God all merge into a complete picture of who and what God is.

What is Good and What is Evil?

This attitude of giving-- living the law of love-- is not at first a self-evident basis upon which to form a government. Indeed, in the six thousand years that man has existed on earth he has not been able to discover it. The knowledge of the way to peace, happiness, and prosperity is not known to man (Rom 3:17) because it is knowledge that must be REVEALED. Spiritual laws (the law of love is a spiritual law, Rom 7:14) are not identifiable through physical methods. Man needs the omniscient Counselor to tell him the right way to live.

God does tell man the right way to live. The law of love transcends planes of being and so is equally applicable to the physical as well as the spiritual orders. Found in God's instruction

manual, the Bible, the Great Commandment is the law of love spelled out in concise words. "Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On this commandment hang all the law..." (Matt 22:37) The Ten Commandments, statutes, and judgements all explain how to love; they focus the law of love into a system of "should's and shouldn't's" for individual circumstances. They are moral laws forming an ethical code.

The law of love defines good and evil, God through it sets the standards for right and wrong. The word of the Lord is right (Ps 33:4) and all God's commandments are righteousness. (Ps 119:1,2) His word is given for instruction in righteousness (II Tim 3:16); it teaches what is morally right and justifiable. The law is holy, just, and good; it is the transgression of it that is sin and evil. (I John 3:4) The law says "give, help, share, and serve;" sin says "take, compete, be greedy, and be vain." The law of love, the way of righteousness, is concerned about others; sin and evil are selfish.

When God's law is obeyed, blessing result; (Dt 11:26) when it is broken, there are curses. (Dt 28:15) Obedience brings life; disobedience requires death. God's laws teach men how to act with God and men; he originally gave these laws to Adam to show him how to live the way that brings happiness, peace, harmony, and blessings. It is because man rejects God's revealed laws that he has misery, discontent, ruin, and death. "When you leave the true God out, there is no real standard of behavior left, the result is spiritual chaos and lawlessness, and wretchedness in the human heart."¹⁵
It is this condition of spiritual lawlessness that has resulted in

the "way that has produced all the vast mountain of evils that has descended on this world."⁴ God's law of love defines what is good and what is evil; without this knowledge it is not possible to know the way to have a happy, productive society.

The Nature of the Universe

As if desirous of proving to man that disobedience to God's law brings curses, God has left the entire universe for man to survey as a witness. Everywhere that man has explored space he has found evidence of universal destruction-- the result of universal sin. "Apparently all such planets in the entire universe now are waste and empty-- decayed (tohu and bohu)... Decay is not an original created condition-- it is the condition resulting from a process of deterioration."³ This is not the way that the earth was originally formed. "The original Hebrew words (the words originally written by Moses) imply a perfect creation, light and beauty. Every reference in the Bible describes the condition of any completed phase of God's creation as 'very good'-- perfect. God is a perfectionist."³ God created the heavens and the earth at the same time in a condition of perfection. The condition of decay is the result of sin-- disobedience to God's law.

The sin that was committed was rebellion. The spiritual realm that God created before the physical universe included a number of beings including cherubs, seraphs, angels, elders, and others. Lucifer, a cherub trained at God's throne in the third heaven, was put in charge of this earth after its creation. Under him were one-third of the angels that God had created. He administered the government of God while they "maintained the earth in its original beautiful condition, improved it, carried out God's instructions and

and obeyed His government...As long as Lucifer continued in this perfect way, there was happiness and joy unspeakable over the whole earth."³ The law of love was in operation engendering blessings as long as the angels obeyed it. Unfortunately, they did not continue to obey it. Because of his beauty, Lucifer became proud and his wisdom became corrupt. He lost sight of God's law of love-- the way of giving, loving, sharing, and being concerned for others-- and by false reasoning turned inward toward selfish desire, lust, and vanity. (Ez 28:12-18) This corruption lead to rebellion against God and his authority, for after he had inculcated this spirit of disobedience into the angels under him he attempted a coup d'etat against God. (Is 14:13) The colossal conflict that ensued resulted in the waste and decay that man now finds in our solar system and the rest of the universe. Universal sin has brought universal destruction.

This is the condition of the earth spoken of in Genesis 2:2. The earth became without form and void. God's spirit then renewed the surface of the earth (Ps 104:30) during the recreation week. The rest of the universe has not yet been renewed or beautified; that renewal is to be done in the future by man.

Man's Place in the Universe

"Men have devoted multiple tens of thousands of volumes over the centuries in search of 'the plan', 'the purpose', and 'the answer' to mankind's existence. To no avail. In striking contrast, God reveals all three, He spells out in precise detail the exact plan, the full purpose, and the ultimate answer for each human life, and he does it in just four original Hebrew words (11 in English) "Let us (the God Family) make man in our (the God Family's) image and in our (the God Family's) likeness."¹³

There is the crystal clear answer to what man's place is in

the universe-- it is to become God! Man is to inherit the form, composition, and nature of the Almighty Creator, the Ruler of the Universe! This awesome revelation is contained in those four Hebrew words. God is reproducing themselves in their image and in their likeness. Just as they created the animals and plants to reproduce after their kind, so God is now reproducing after the God kind. Created physical, man is to become spiritual and enter into the God Family.

At the present time it is not evident that this is the potential and purpose for mankind. There is a huge gap between the physical, limited man, and the spiritual, infinite God. There appears to be no possible connection between the two planes of being. David recognized this discrepancy and mused: "What is man that you are mindful of him? and the son of man that you visit him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crown him with glory and honor, and did set him over the works of your hands: You have put all things in subjection under his feet." (Ps 8:4-6) God has put mankind over all of his physical creation to rule it, but what ultimate interest does he have for him? Paul answers: "For in that he put all things in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not all things (the universe- Weymouth translation) put under him." (Heb 2:8) Mankind is to be put over the entire universe! Man's link is not down to the primates, it is up to God. Just as he is now physical, he will become spiritual; mortality will put on immortality. (I Cor 15:49,53) Man will be given glorious bodies (Phil 3:21) and will be like God. (I John 3:2) With the power of God and the nature of God inherent within him, mankind will "take over the entire universe-- to improve and finish the billions of physical planets surrounding the uncountable stars."³

He will renew the creation that is now in chaos from the rebellion of Lucifer.

Does Man have an Immortal Soul?

Man is not yet in that spiritual state; he is physical and fleshly. He breathes air and consumes food to sustain his life, for he does not have an immortal body. Many claim that he does have immortal life within him, though. These men profess that there is a "principle of life, feeling, thought, and action in man, regarded as a distinct entity separate from the body,"² that is "in the very likeness of the divine, the immortal, the intellectual, and uniform, and indissoluble, and unchangeable...."¹⁶ This concept has been termed an "immortal soul."

Man obviously does have life, intellect, feeling, and the ability for action; but are these inherent within him, or are they powers given to him by a source residing within him but distinctly separate from him? Furthermore, if such an entity does exist within man, is it immortal? These questions bear answering.

The concept of a soul containing the essence of what a man is has been passed down from antiquity to the present. Its existence has always been postulated, never proven. Based upon this premise of its existence, the soul was embellished with the quality of immortality. This embellishment was based upon a variety of arguments.

"These arguments may be conveniently arranged under six different classes: first, the metaphysical, which proved that the mind is entirely distinct from the body and is capable of existing while separate from it; that the mind is not compounded, and will not therefore be dissolved into elementary particles, that, being imperceptible, it cannot perish except by an annihilating act of God; secondly, the analogical, which induces us to believe that the soul will not be annihilated, even as matter does not cease to exist when it changes its form; thirdly, the teleological,

which incline us to think that the mental powers and the tendencies so imperfectly developed in this life will not be shut out from that sphere of future exertion for which they are so wisely adapted; fourthly, the theological, which foster an expectation that the wisdom of God will not fail to complete what otherwise appears to have been commenced in vain, that his goodness will not cease to bestow the happiness for which our spiritual nature is ever longing, and that his justice will not allow the present disorders of the moral world to continue, but will rightly adjust the balances, which have now for a season lost their equipoise; fifthly, the moral, which compel us to hope that our virtues will not lose their reward, and to fear that our vices will not go unpunished in the future world, which seems to be better fitted than the present for moral retribution; and sixthly, the historical, the general belief in a future state of rewards and punishments, the expectations of dying men, the premonitions of the guilty, and the tenacious hopes of the beneficent. All these arguments are in favor of our unending existence, and there are none in opposition to it...."¹⁴

The concept of an immortal soul is the product of speculation by men; it has been procured by "unaided judgement." by men; it has been procured by "unaided judgement."¹⁴ This is not how man is to learn of the non-physical. Man cannot know about what he cannot sense physically; it is indiscernable by him. "God, through the Maker's instruction book, reveals what man cannot otherwise learn."⁴ The Bible, then, must be the source of our knowledge about the soul.

The Bible reveals that man does not have a soul, but, rather, is a soul. The principle of life, feeling, thought, and action, is the man, it is his essence; it is not separate from the man. (Gen 2:7) Thus, the soul is physical, for man is physical. (Gen 3:19) Being physical, the soul can die. (Ez 18:4) When one considers that men and animals have the same soul (Gen 2:7,19) these statements become less amazing and more obvious. (The word translated soul is the Hebrew word nephesh which means "creature" or "breathing beast.")²⁰ Just as animals die, so men die. (Eccl 3:19) Life

is not in an immortal soul, it is in the blood. (Lev 17:11) Man continues to live because he continues to breathe. He is not immortal and does not contain any immortal soul!

Fate or Free Will?

The lack of an immortal soul makes the concept of man becoming a part of the God Family somewhat implausible. One might accept a "graduation" of an immortal soul from a physical body to a spiritual body as a realistic explanation of man's present form; but the fact that the human body dies and evidently just decomposes without any immortal soul held within itself presents a true difficulty. Questions arise from this problem such as, "How will physical man become God?," "Why would God create a being in a physical state when it was to become spiritual?" and "Why would it not be simpler to create Gods directly?" (After all, they are able to create spirit beings since they fashioned the angels.)

The answer to why God didn't just create us as gods from the outset in their quest to reproduce themselves is that they Couldn't. God cannot create other Gods instantaneously. By definition a being created as God would have to have Godly character, which cannot be created by fiat. Character must be fashioned by an individual over time; it cannot be manufactured with a spiritual punch press.

Character is developed by an individual through his free will. The ability to choose is an essential portion of the character building process, for character is "the ability, in a separate entity with free moral agency, to come to the knowledge of the right from the wrong-- the true from the false-- and to choose the right, and possess the will to enforce self-discipline to do the right and resist the wrong."³ To build character one must have free choice

in each individual circumstance that he encounters. By this process of continually deciding to do the right and then following through with discipline and performing the right act, one's nature becomes right-- in fact it becomes righteous.

It is because of this necessity of free moral agency to build character that a man's life cannot be fated. One's entire course of existence could not be predetermined by God, for if it were then God would be creating character by fiat since it would be their decision of how each person's character would emerge. This is impossible, as was shown before. Each individual must be able to decide for himself what he is going to do in each situation if he is to build character; his decisions cannot be determined by God.

The character building process is called "conversion." Conversion is the spiritual phase of the creation of man. It is a change from a carnal, fleshly nature that is centered on the way of getting, to the righteous, perfect character that is centered on the way of giving. Each person is given the opportunity to experience this profound alteration in his life. God has predestined each person to be "called" to have this opportunity within a certain time frame in the 7,000 plus year plan that God has outlined for humanity. Within the first 6000 years of this plan, certain persons have been foreordained by God to be called to begin this conversion process. (Rom 8:29) These men and women have a chance now to exercise their power of free choice to build the character of God and "conform to the image of his Son." These men and women will then, upon their resurrection from the grave as members of the God Family, teach the people of the Millennium (the 1000 year

rule under Christ after the 6000 year rule by man over this earth is over.) All the people of the Millenium will then be called and have their occasion to become converted and build the character of God in their lives. At the end of the Millenium, God will then resurrect all those who have never been called and give them their opportunity. Thus, all mankind is "fated" to be called, but they are "predestined" to be called at a certain time.

When God does call a person to begin to live his way of life of love, the individual has an opportunity to exercise his free moral agency and choose his response to that calling by accepting or rejecting it. The person must repent and consciously commit himself to his new life of building Godly character if he accepts his calling. At baptism he then symbolically declares his choice to voluntarily surrender his life to God by living now according to God's commands rather than his own personal dictates. After receiving the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands, the man then has the power by which he can do the right that he has chosen to do. Throughout the rest of his life he must repeat this cycle of choosing and doing the right to build the character of a God.

Thus, essentially, the conversion process is what life is all about. It is rejecting the wrong, false inclinations that we have, and choosing to follow the true, righteous ways of God. At the very core of the entire conversion process is the necessity for free choice. The individual must consciously choose to do the right action to build righteous character. The entire process cannot be predetermined or fated, God cannot create character by fiat, it requires the work of the individual.

It is because of these decisions that must be made for character's

formation that man was created physical. As a physical being, man is changeable. His character is not "set" immediately. If he makes a mistake he is not ruined by it forever, he can alter his character by choosing to do so, and then forcing himself to perform the actions that will reinforce that choice. If man were spirit, then his character would be set once a decision was made. If a man decided to reject God, he could not repent. As a physical being, though he can change and "grow in spiritual knowledge, develop character, overcome wrong habits, weaknesses, and faults."³ For those who reject God firmly and choose not to repent, as physical beings, they can be destroyed. In his mercy God has designed man so that he cannot experience the eternal misery that Satan and his demons must suffer for their rejection of God. Those who reject God will be eradicated forever; they will be as if they had never existed. Such are the virtues of physical beings; they are changeable and destroyable. Through physical beings with the power of choice through which they may build character, God's goal of reproducing himself is being accomplished in the best way.

Man or the State: Which is Supreme?

Men of philosophy have long noticed the free moral agency that mankind possesses innately. Devoid of the understanding of the purpose for this behavioral-choice freedom, these men envisioned that self-governance was therefore an inalienable right that each man has by virtue of his reasoning ability. "As soon as a man attains the age of reason, he becomes his own master, because he alone can judge of what will best assure his continued existence."¹⁸ As his own master, the individual is in total control of his own life. There is no supreme authority in such a system; an authority must be

established for a society to develop. "The agreement of these creatures is natural,... and therefore it is no wonder if there be somewhat else required, beside covenant, to make their agreement constant and lasting, which is a common power, to keep them in awe and to direct their actions to the common benefit. The only way to erect such a common power... is to confer all their power and strength upon one man, or upon one assembly of men, that may reduce all their wills ... unto one will."¹⁰ "What a man loses as a result of the social contract is his natural liberty and his unqualified right to lay hands on all that tempts him, provided only that he can compass its possession. What he gains is civil liberty and the ownership of what belongs to him."¹⁸

Thus, according to the philosophers, "governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."⁸ This places the ultimate power of any society in the hands of the individuals composing it. Since each person has voluntarily entered into the social contract, it is only by his agreement that he obeys the government. In effect, the individual has ultimate power concerning his life over the state, for "should the social compact be violated, each associated individual would at once assume all the rights which were once his, and regain his natural liberty by the mere fact of losing the agreed liberty for which he renounced it."¹⁸ The individual may acquiesce to the governmental power because it is in his and in society's best interest to have a common law, but he is still a free moral agent with the power to remove himself from that contract and extricate himself from the power of the state. His submission to the state is, in theory, voluntary and agreed to only because of self interest.

still is a free moral agent. The individual retains control of his life by virtue of the fact that he has the ability to choose for himself the actions that he will take given the impositions of the society that he is under. Even within a society that is extremely repressive, he would still retain the ability to disobey a given command. The individual must therefore still learn how to choose their actions; that is, he must learn how to use his free moral agency. Humans must be taught this because they do not possess this knowledge innately. The teaching of the individual in the knowledge of how to act and live is education.

Based upon this need for individuals to be taught how to live, societies have established systems for the education of its constituents. By the means of a schooling institution, the members of the society are taught how the information, ideas, and values of the society so that they may live within its confines. Each succeeding generation has the accumulated knowledge of previous generations and will in turn pass on its knowledge to its progeny. Education serves the society by this bestowal, for through it the society perpetuates itself. In like manner, the individual is served by the inheritance of this knowledge for he can use it to live within the society.

For the education of the individual to be complete, the knowledge of the society bestowed on him must be complete. In all of man's history he has never had complete knowledge, and therefore, he has never had complete education. Mankind lacks the revealed knowledge given by God in his word. Without this foundational knowledge (Ps 111:10) all of mankind's societies have gone astray from true education. The individuals who have been

taught by those societies have therefore also been astray in their knowledge. Education has been based upon false values and ideas, and therefore it creates individuals who do not know how to live their lives completely happily, wholesomely, or healthfully. As a result we have a "mixed up, unhappy, and fearful world in chaos, divided against itself, filled with heartaches, frustration, broken homes, juvenile delinquency, crime, insanity, racial hatreds, riots and violence, wars and death; devoid of honesty, truth, and justice; now facing extinction by man-inflicted cosmocide."⁶ This is the "fruit of modern education,"⁶ it is the result of the rejection of God's revealed knowledge.

"Full truth comes from the Biblical revelation, plus acquired and discoverable knowledge approached through the concept revealed in the Bible;"⁴ therefore, education must include spiritual knowledge, for a "complete education involves spiritual values-- the truly educated person becomes physically, mentally, and spiritually matured."¹¹ This maturity is ultimately connected with the purpose for life itself, character development. Education must teach what is right, (the truth) how to choose the right, and the enforcement of the right choice; if it is to teach a person how to live.

An individual who is being educated will be incorporating the character of God into his life. He will be taking in the values, ideas, and nature of God. He will know the "true values, the purpose for human life; the way to peace, prosperity, happiness, abundant living."⁶ An individual taught the knowledge of how to live, along with the skills of how to make a living, will be able to lead a happy, peaceful, productive, and prosperous life; and will be able to contribute these products to the society in which he lives.

Education is the "art of successful living."¹¹ This education continues throughout life, this brief span we have to learn how to become Gods. The ultimate purpose then for education is the preparation of individuals for living eternally as Gods in harmony and happiness.

Which is Superior, Mind or Matter?

Inherent in any discussion about education is the presupposition of an ability to learn. The quality of intelligence is what allows man to think, reason, learn, and apply concepts. Because of this "mind power" man is infinitely superior to common animals and inorganic matter. "Mind power" allows man to rule the beasts and subjugate matter for his own ends. "Mind power" also gives man the ability to build character and attain the destiny he has of becoming God. "Mind power" distinguishes man from the beasts through each of these incredible bestowals.

Where does this "mind power" come from? How is it that man is so much greater than anything else created on the physical level? Even other creatures that have the ability to learn rudimentary skills and tricks do not compare with man. Why is this? A physical comparison of the human and animal brains gives no sufficient basis upon which to establish this difference. There is required a non-physical element inherent within man's mind, that is absent in animals. Mankind has never been able to discover such an element by virtue of its non-physical nature, and therefore he is ignorant of the incredible gift that God has given him that grants him superiority over the entire creation. One must look for another source to answer our questions concerning this element.

God's word reveals what that non-physical element in man's mind is. God reveals that there is a spirit in man (Job 32:8) which gives him this "mind power"-- the ability to comprehend physical knowledge, to reason, and to learn. (II Cor 2:11) This spiritual component gives man dominion over the earth, over all that is in the earth, and over himself. Through it he has the ability to form character by knowing the right, and then choosing to do it. It is this spirit in man that demarcates him from animals by giving him reason.

This spirit is not the man, it is in the man. It allows the physical brain to use the knowledge by reason, that is gained through the sensory members of the body. The spirit does not see, hear, or feel; the physical brain does these functions. The spirit merely empowers the brain to use this information. The spirit is given to man at his birth, and returns to God at his death, (Eccl 3:21) but it does not give him life. Human beings have a physical, chemical existence that is not empowered by a spiritual element within them. This is the essential difference between the "spirit in man" and an immortal soul. While an immortal soul would supposedly give life, the "human spirit" does not. The "human spirit" does grant mind power, but it does not grant any life.

There is another purpose for the human spirit. It is the "mold" of a person; "it preserves the human's memory, his character, his form, and shape."³ As he builds character and experiences life, all that he learns and grows to become is retained on this "template." At death this template will be preserved unchanged until the time of the resurrection of the individual. If the individual was converted and had received the Holy Spirit, then at the resurrection

he will be given a spiritual body with his memory, form, and shape, and character as it was preserved by his human spirit. If he was not converted and is brought up in the second resurrection, then the human spirit will dictate a new physical body.

Thus, through the spirit in man, God has provided the means by which physical man can become divine. Man's incredible potential necessitates a bridging of the gap between the physical and the spiritual. This bridge is the "mold" of the human spirit. Through this spirit essence which gives him brain power, man is able to ultimately inherit immortality. Indeed, the mind is superior to matter, for through it man can become God!

Where Do we get our Ideas?

The spirit in man grants him the ability to learn because it allows him to conceptualize, formulate, analyze, and retain ideas. Ideas are basic to the education process, for they are the ore from which our values and knowledge are refined. Because of the pivotal role that ideas play in the shaping of our life, it is important that the source of these ideas be examined.

The problems that the world now finds itself entangled with are the result of its following false ideas and values. Where did these false values arise from? Ultimately they must be traced back to their authors, Satan and man. Satan initially inspired the false values and concepts that are now in this world, and men have used these false premises to create new ideas (equally erroneous in their own right) from them. (As an example of this process one may examine the concept of an immortal soul. Satan is the author of this idea, for he first told Eve that she would not die. (Gen 3:4) Later, Plato and other philosophers extended the concept, through

reason, to the fulness that it has today.) The whole spectrum of values that men hold today has come ultimately from Satan, for the ideas are based upon Satan's nature. Mankind follows after "its father, the Devil." (John 8:44) The attitudes and false values are inspired by him (Eph 2:2, IJohn 2:15-6) by his use of the spirit in man.

Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He is in control of what happens here on earth within the limits that God gives him. He is able to broadcast attitudes around this world to people much as a radio or television station does. "The spirit in every human being is automatically tuned in on Satan's wavelength. He broadcasts in attitudes of self-centeredness, lust, greed, vanity, jealousy, envy, resentment, competition, strife, bitterness, and hate."³

Satan's nature is taken on by the "human nature" in each of us. Ideas can be inspired in the same way by his transmissions. (Ezra 1:1) Thus, Satan has been able to deceive the world into believing the false values and false ideas it now cherishes to be the truth. (Rev 12:9)

The false ideas that men have received from Satan have been used as the premise for new ideas. Insight and empiricism have at their base initiating concepts in the light of which reasoning (with or without new facts) yields new conclusions. The reasoning process needs a basic underlying concept as a premise or a background within which the new deduction is to be formulated. The new ideas that men have determined based upon the false premises that they have been given by Satan, has thrown them farther and farther from the right way of living that leads to happiness and prosperity.

As was shown previously, happiness and prosperity require the

revelation from God of the basic ideas and concepts that lead to them.. Mankind does not know innately how to live; revelation from God must be his initial source of knowledge. Satan wants man to learn the way that leads to death, and therefore he provides men with the basic ideas that promote that result. God wants man to live forever as Gods within his family, and therefore he wants to show man the basic ideas of how to live the life that will yield this result. If man will listen, God will show him the way. This "listening" requires the conversion process.

If a man chooses to accept God's calling and submits himself to God's will, then God will begin to provide him with the knowledge of how to live. First of all, man must be able to receive that knowledge. Mankind was created incomplete. He is cut off from God and is unable to understand God's revealed truth without the addition of an additional factor. Man's human spirit allows him to understand the physical knowledge of the things around him, but he requires the Holy Spirit of God to fuse with that human spirit before he will be able to understand the true ideas, values, and knowledge that God will reveal through his word. (I Cor 2:11) Once man has received the Holy Spirit after baptism, he can then be receptive to the right knowledge on "God's wavelength" and be "tuned in" to the attitudes and ideas that God promulgates. The Holy Spirit will then lead him to right knowledge (John 16:13) and give him understanding of that knowledge. It will also grant him the power by which he can employ that knowledge within his life by building the character that will ~~entrench~~ entrench that nature of God into his life. This power will give him the strength to do the right that he chooses to do. (II Tim 1:7) Thus, by God's ideas, (his knowledge,) man's choice, and God's power, man

is able to build the holy, righteous, character of God. Through, the Holy Spirit man can take on the mind, power, and nature of God; The spirit of God in this way allows man to live the happy, peaceful, abundant physical life that God wants for man; and it allows him to build the holy, righteous character that he will need to live that way for all eternity.

Thus with revelation as the initial source of his ideas, the Holy Spirit to guide him to understand those ideas, the "spirit in man" to grant him use of that knowledge, and the free choice to apply it (through the power of God); men can come to full truth, happiness, prosperity, and eternal life. These must be the results because they are the direct effect of the keeping of God's law of Love. With God as the basis from which new ideas will be deduced by reason and insight, mankind would not go in error and would not follow the false ideas that lead to death. Men will therefore be educated with truth and learn how to live full and happy lives by building the character necessary to attain their human potential of becoming God as God is God.

*Excellent work -
Well documented -
Evidence of much
effort and thought*

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