

RELAXING YOUR WAY TO BETTER HEALTH
THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, PART VII
MR. MIKI COMES TO WASHINGTON



Prime Minister Miki of Japan

MANY HEADS OF STATE today are faced with a serious credibility gap.

Governments of nations are being overthrown at the rate of about one a month. The pace is accelerating, with eight this year so far.

Let me start from March 1973. I was attending an outdoor garden luncheon in New Delhi at the official residence of Dr. Nagendra Singh (then executive secretary to President V. V. Giri of India — now a judge on the World Court of International Justice at The Hague). The ambassadors from Ethiopia and Afghanistan and their wives had been invited for me to meet. They each gave me an invitation to visit their respective countries and to have a private meeting with their respective heads of state — Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and King Mohammed Zahir Shah of Afghanistan.

Before I could fit into my schedule the visit to Afghanistan, that government was overthrown in a political coup, and the king fled into exile. Later that year I did visit Addis Ababa and had a warm personal meeting with Emperor Haile Selassie. He is just eight days older than I. I visited Ethiopia again in January with several of my "Japanese sons" — all members of the Japanese Diet (the equivalent of Congress or Parliament), and I introduced them to the emperor. But in August the emperor was taken alive by the military revolutionists and has been kept a prisoner since. A new military government replaced that of the emperor. One of the very last things the emperor did before being taken was to send me a telegram of congratulation on my birthday.

In August 1973 I was in Santiago, Chile, to see President Allende. Three weeks later I was visiting President Franjeh of Lebanon — whose capital Beirut is the financial hub of the Arab world. While I was there President Allende was assassinated in the very room where I had the meeting, and his government was overthrown in a military coup.

Three weeks later I was speaking at a banquet in Bangkok. At that time the Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur war broke out.

Three weeks later I was speaking in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, to an audience of some 11,000 Worldwide

Church of God members, when a radio news flash was handed me saying a protest mob of 100,000 had overthrown the government of Prime Minister Kittikachorn, whom I know well, and he had fled the country.

In late January this year, I was speaking before several groups in Bombay, India, and before several of them I mentioned the above incidents. Jokingly I said, "I wonder what will happen right here three weeks from now?" In four weeks I returned to Bombay and discovered that a week before, the local state government had been overthrown.

Since then President Thieu of South Vietnam fled his country and, as all know, the communist North Vietnamese took over that country. I had spent some time in private conversations with President Thieu and had expected to hold a campaign there attended by some 25,000 to 50,000 in the university stadium. But the war danger made it impossible to assemble such a crowd in any one place.

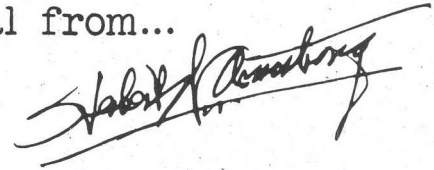
And now, as I write, just the day before yesterday another head of state, Prime Minister Rahman of Bangladesh was assassinated, and the Bangladesh government was overthrown. I had spent some 45 minutes with this strong leader in private conversation in his office.

When things like this happen continually to those I have known personally, it impresses me deeply with the kind of world we live in.

Leaders and rulers are criticized, blamed, plotted against, and enemies seek to create great credibility gaps in their nation's leaders.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, prime minister of the world's second largest nation, has very narrowly escaped being overthrown. Political enemies, leaders of the minority party in India, sought to oust Mrs. Gandhi by accusing her of using illegal methods in a recent election campaign. Mrs. Gandhi was found guilty by a high court. Mrs. Gandhi acted quickly. She had all opposition leaders arrested. Then she had the constitution amended retroactively, changing the law on the points concerned. It was passed by the Congress overwhelmingly. Thus she wiped out the "crime." But what will she do now regarding her imprisoned political enemies? It seems hardly possible she can leave them all in prison — the

Personal from...



THE BIGGEST CREDIBILITY GAP IN THE WORLD TODAY

number is very great — until they all die there. And if she releases them — then what?

One might get an idea out of the Bible. It is recorded that, on Christ's return as world ruler, Satan is to be imprisoned 1,000 years (Rev. 20:2-3). But after the thousand years, it is recorded, "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations." And millions will be led against the world government ruled by Christ. Mrs. Gandhi might do well to read that prophecy. Of course she denies doing any real wrong, claiming the old obsolete law should have been repealed long ago, and saying she is upholding the democratic system of government, which is by majority. It's not my job to judge Mrs. Gandhi.

But the most monumental CREDIBILITY GAP of all has been against the one who will RULE for that coming thousand years — Jesus Christ.

He came, more than 1900 years ago, born as a human, with a message (His gospel, almost unknown to the world today) about His future worldwide government, the kingdom of God. But only a few really believed Him. Many "believed on Him," just as today, but they didn't BELIEVE Him — that is, they didn't believe what He said.

NOTICE IT: "As he spake these words,

many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We... were never in bondage to any man... Jesus answered them... but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you... And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not." They would not believe WHAT HE SAID! (John 8:30-45.)

What a credibility gap!

The chief priests and Pharisees (rulers) had sent officers to take Jesus into custody and bring Him to them for condemnation, or perhaps execution. The officers were impressed with what they heard Jesus say and were afraid to take Him. When the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees without Him, "Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?" (John 7:47.)

No credibility among any of the leaders or the ruling class.

Yet the prophecy says of Him: "... and the government [of the world] shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

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Volume XL No. 15

Circulation: 3,628,460

WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: *Plain Truth* has no subscription or newsstand price. It is supported through contributions from our readers and those who have chosen, voluntarily, to become co-workers with us in this worldwide work. *Plain Truth* is non-profit, accepts no commercial advertising, and has nothing to sell. Contributions are gratefully welcomed and are tax-deductible in the U.S. Those who can are encouraged to add their financial support in the spirit of helping to make *Plain Truth* available, without price, to others. Contributions should be sent to *Plain Truth*, Pasadena, Ca., 91123, or to one of our offices nearest you (addresses listed on back cover).

Plain Truth is published twice monthly (except monthly in July and October) by Ambassador College, Pasadena, California, 91123. © 1975 Ambassador College. All rights reserved. Second Class Postage paid at Pasadena, Ca., and at additional mailing offices. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...

The Missing Dimension in Knowledge

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Part VII

FEW PEOPLE indeed know *what* a human being really *IS*. Few know *HOW* we came to be here on the earth, *WHETHER* we were put here for a *PURPOSE*, *WHERE* we are going, or *WHAT* is the *WAY*!

In preceding installments I have shown what caused God to create man and put him here on the earth, the *TRUE PURPOSE* for human life, the breath-taking *AWESOME* human potential, and *HOW* God planned to actually *REPRODUCE HIMSELF* by a reproductive process out of earthly material substance.

Even a human manufacturer sends along with the instrument or device he manufactures an *INSTRUCTION BOOKLET* describing what his product is intended to do with full directions for accomplishing its purpose. The most perfect mechanism ever designed and made is the marvelous mind and body that is *MAN*. It is only natural that our Maker did send along His *INSTRUCTION BOOK* — revealing for our good what we *ARE*, *WHY* we are, where we are going, and what is *the way*. Yet man has made this the most *MISUNDERSTOOD*, *MISINTERPRETED* and *MALIGNED* book that ever came into human hands.

Nevertheless, the *MISSING DIMENSION IN KNOWLEDGE* is all there revealed. The incredible *HUMAN POTENTIAL* is there revealed and made plain — if *MAN* would only read it — and *BELIEVE WHAT IT SAYS!*

This is our source book. It covers pre-history, history, instruction for the present, and prophecy revealing the future.

It reveals, as we have shown in preceding installments, that originally from eternity, there existed *GOD* and with Him there coexisted, also from eternity, "*THE WORD*," a second *PERSON* who also is *GOD*. *GOD* created all things by and through the coexisting *SPIRIT BEING* called "*THE WORD*" (John 1:1-4).

In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew word which Moses wrote, translated "God," is *Elohim*, a uniplural name meaning *ONE GOD* who is composed of *more than one person*. In other words, a *divine FAMILY*, of which the *GOD* mentioned in John 1:1 is *HEAD*.

We have seen how the Bible reveals that *GOD* first created angels — also spirit beings composed of spirit, though lesser beings than *GOD*, and lacking in creative power.

Next, *GOD* created — brought into existence — the physical universe, including the earth. At earth's creation, a third of the angels were placed here. They were put under rule of the *GOVERNMENT OF GOD*, administered by the great archangel Lucifer, a cherub. Under the *GOVERNMENT OF GOD* the earth was filled with wonderful *PEACE*, *HAPPINESS* and *JOY*. But ultimately Lucifer led his angels into rebellion. The *GOVERNMENT OF GOD* was rejected, no longer

HOW could the great God, who is spirit, reproduce Himself out of PHYSICAL MATTER? And why the vast superiority of human MIND over animal brain?

enforced. The earth as a result became waste and empty, in confusion and utter darkness.

Then in six days *GOD* renewed the face of the earth. During this "creation week" of Genesis 1, *GOD* formed the first life forms that reproduced themselves — the flora, plant life. In plant life there was simple reproduction, without consciousness — no brain.

Next *GOD* created the fauna — animal life on earth, in which He placed *BRAIN*, with a limited consciousness, yet without the thinking, reasoning, decision-making process, and without ethical, moral or spiritual capabilities.

Finally came the creation of *MAN* — created in *GOD*'s own image and likeness — form and shape — but composed of physical *MATTER* from the earth. *MAN*, to be born ultimately into the very *GOD FAMILY*, was designed to have *GODLY*-type *MIND* — ability to think, to reason, to make choices and decisions, capable of forming ethical, moral and spiritual attitudes.

GOD's *PURPOSE* in creating man is to reproduce Himself — with such perfect spiritual *CHARACTER* as *ONLY GOD* possesses — who *WILL NOT* and therefore *CANNOT EVER SIN* (1 John 3:9).

Such perfect spiritual and holy character cannot be created by fiat. It must be *developed*, and that requires *TIME* and *EXPERIENCE*.

Such character is the ability in a single entity to come to comprehend and distinguish the true values from the false, the right way from the wrong, to choose the right and reject the wrong, and, with power of *WILL*, to *DO* the right and resist the evil.

Animals are equipped with *BRAIN* and instinct. But they do not have power to understand and choose moral and spiritual values or to develop perfect spiritual *CHARACTER*. Animals have *BRAIN*, but no intellect — instinct, but no ability to develop *HOLY* and *GODLY CHARACTER*.

And that pictures the transcendental *DIFFERENCE* between animal *BRAIN* and human *MIND*.

But *WHAT CAUSES* that vast difference?

There is virtually no difference in design, shape, and construction between animal brain and human brain. The brains of elephants, whales, and dolphins are larger than human brain, and the chimp's brain is slightly smaller. Qualitatively the human brain may be very slightly superior, but not enough to remotely account for the difference in output.

What, then, can account for the vast difference? Science cannot adequately

answer. One scientist, earning his Ph.D. in the new science of brain research, concluded that, of necessity, there has to be some nonphysical component in human brain that does not exist in animal brain. But most scientists will not admit the possibility of the existence of the nonphysical.

What other explanation is there? Actually, outside of the very slight degree of physical superiority of human brain, science has no explanation, due to unwillingness to concede even the possibility of the spiritual.

When man refuses to admit even the very existence of his own Maker, he shuts out of his mind vast oceans of basic true knowledge, fact, and *UNDERSTANDING*. When he substitutes *FABLE* for truth, he is, of all men, *MOST IGNORANT*, though he professes himself to be wise.

When man, in the name of science, denies his Maker, he blinds his mind to what he is, why he is, where he is going, and what is *THE WAY!* No wonder this world is filled with evils! There has to be a *CAUSE* for every effect!

But when our minds are opened to the knowledge of our *GOD* and His purposes, then we have glorious access to the vast *MISSING DIMENSION OF KNOWLEDGE*: the very knowledge that *GOD* is the *divine FAMILY* — that *GOD* is *REPRODUCING HIMSELF* — that He is using *MATTER* in the process, and that He opens our understanding to vast vistas of new knowledge.

So now consider. *GOD* is composed of *SPIRIT*. *GOD* is *CREATOR*, *DESIGNER*, *RULER*, *EDUCATOR*. *GOD* has *SUPREME MIND*. He *IS* the *PERFECT HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER!*

But He is using material substance from this physical earth with which to *REPRODUCE HIMSELF*. Out of physical *EARTH* He has formed *MAN* in *GOD*'s image and likeness (form and shape).

But if man is to *BECOME GOD*, in the process of *GOD* reproducing Himself, then the *CHARACTER* that is to be built in us *MUST* emanate from *GOD* — and the *SPIRIT LIFE* that is to be ours also *MUST* emanate from *GOD*.

In other words, *GOD* has had to plan to *bridge the gap* between *MATTER* (of which *MAN* is now wholly composed) and *SPIRIT* (which *GOD* now is, and man must become). *Matter* is *NOT* spirit — cannot be converted into spirit. *HOW*, then, can *GOD* change mortal material *MAN* into immortal, spirit-composed *GOD*?

Man is composed *wholly* of *MATTER*. *GOD* says: "And the *ETERNAL GOD* formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath

of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7). *MAN* was made out of the dust of the ground. He receives his temporary human life from air, breathed in and out of his nostrils. His *life* is in the blood (Gen. 9:4, 6). But the lifeblood is oxidized by breathing air, even as gasoline in the carburetor of an automobile. Therefore breath is the "breath of life" even as the life is in the blood.

Notice carefully that *MAN*, made wholly of matter, *BECAME* a *living soul* as soon as the *BREATH* gave him his temporary physical life. The scripture does *NOT* say "immortal" soul. *Man* does not *have* an "immortal" soul. He *IS* a soul as soon as physical *LIFE* enters him.

The Hebrew word for "soul" is *nephesh*. In Genesis 1:20-24, animals are called *nephesh* three times — only the translators translated the Hebrew word there "*creature*." Animals have the same temporary physio-chemical existence as man. Both die the same death (Eccl. 3:19-20).

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). Again, *GOD*'s Word says: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:20). Adam was a soul, and *GOD* said to him, in regard to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "... in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). But Satan denied this, and Adam and Eve believed Satan, as most of humanity has ever since.

So let us *UNDERSTAND!* *Man* is *FLESH* and *BLOOD* — composed wholly of *MATTER* — and that living matter *IS* a living soul. The *SOUL* is composed of physical *MATTER*, not spirit.

Now I have explained that human brain is almost identical to animal brain. But man was made in the form and shape of *GOD*, to have a special relationship with *GOD* — to have the potential of being born into the *FAMILY OF GOD*. And *GOD* is a *SPIRIT* (John 4:24).

To make it possible to *bridge the gap* — or to make the transition from *MAN*, composed wholly of *MATTER*, into *SPIRIT* beings in *GOD*'s kingdom, then to be composed wholly of spirit, and at the same time to give *MAN* a *MIND* like *GOD*'s — *GOD* put a *SPIRIT* in each human.

In Job 32:8, we read, "There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."

This is a great *TRUTH*, understood by but very few.

I call this spirit the *HUMAN SPIRIT*, for it is *IN* each human, even though it is *SPIRIT ESSENCE* and not matter. It is not a spirit *person* or being. It is not the *MAN*, but spirit essence *IN* the man. It is *NOT* a *soul* — the physical human is a soul. The human spirit imparts the *POWER OF INTELLECT* to the human brain. The human spirit does not supply human *LIFE* — the human *LIFE* is in the physical *BLOOD*, oxidized by the *BREATH* of life.

It is that nonphysical component in the human brain that is NOT in the brain of animals. It is the ingredient that makes possible the transition from human to divine, *without* changing matter into spirit, at the time of resurrection. That I will explain a little later.

Let me make clear a few essential points about this spirit in man. It is spirit essence, just as in matter air is essence, and so is water. This human spirit cannot see. The physical BRAIN sees, through the eyes. The human spirit IN a person cannot hear. The brain hears through the ears. This human spirit cannot think. The brain thinks — although the spirit imparts the power to think, whereas brute animal brains without such spirit cannot.

A scripture often used by believers in an "immortal soul" explains this point. In I Corinthians 2, the apostle Paul is explaining to the Corinthians that he did not come to them using hard to understand speech as many do to exalt their own vanity. He came to them with plain and simple speech, in humility. And yet none of the princes — the elite, the highly educated, the rulers — of this world could understand.

WHY couldn't the more highly learned understand? Because he was preaching Christ's message of the kingdom of God. This is *spiritual* knowledge. This kind of knowledge cannot be seen by the physical eye, nor heard with the physical ear. Spiritual knowledge cannot enter the human mind by natural means — for spirit cannot be seen, heard, felt, tasted or smelled.

Then he explains that in this manner (verse 11) no MAN could have the knowledge a man possesses, except by "the spirit of man which is in him." The brute animal has a brain virtually identical to human brain — and some even larger. But their brain cannot KNOW — comprehend — what man knows. Neither could man without the spirit of man which is in him. In other words, this spirit imparts the power of intellect to the human brain.

Yet this human MIND is limited to knowledge of the physical. It cannot KNOW — comprehend — the spiritual things of God. WHY? Because even the human MIND can know, naturally, only what knowledge comes to it through the senses of sight, hearing, smelling, tasting, feeling. A brute animal may see, hear, smell, taste or feel what a man does, and still be unable to utilize what enters his brain in thought or knowledge.

Now the second half of I Corinthians 2:11: "EVEN SO" (in like manner) no man can know — have knowledge of, understand or comprehend — the things of God, except by ANOTHER spirit, the *holy spirit of God*.

Just as no dumb animal can know the things of man's knowledge, neither could man, by brain alone, except by the spirit of man — the human spirit — that is in man. So also, in the same manner, even a man cannot know — comprehend — the things of God, unless or until he receives another spirit — the *holy spirit of God*.

Stated still another way, all humans have from birth a spirit called "the spirit of man" which is IN THEM. Notice care-

fully that this spirit is NOT the man. It is something *IN THE MAN*. A man might swallow a small marble. It is then something *in* the man, but it is *not* the man or any part of him as a man. The man was made of the dust of the ground — mortal. This human spirit is not the soul. It is something *IN* the soul which *IS* the physical MAN.

Notice, further, verse 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."

So, from birth, God gives us one spirit, which for lack of a better term I call a human spirit. It gives us MIND power which is not in animal BRAIN. Yet that MIND power is *limited* to knowledge of the physical universe. WHY? Because knowledge enters the human mind ONLY through the five physical senses.

But notice that God had not completed the creation of MAN at the creation of Adam and Eve. The *physical* creation was completed. They had this "human" spirit at their creation. But now must follow the spiritual creation. This required a *second* spirit in man — the HOLY SPIRIT of God.

"And the ETERNAL God formed man of the dust of the ground... and planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the ETERNAL God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:7-9).

Actually and literally, Adam, as yet, was "not all there." The spirit of man was in him — but not the spirit of God. God offered him freely the fruit of the TREE OF LIFE — which symbolized God's HOLY SPIRIT. Taking of the tree of LIFE would have done two things: (1) opened his MIND to comprehend spiritual knowledge, and (2) imparted within him the GIFT of God's holy spirit, leading to ETERNAL LIFE. But, when God explained to him the KINGDOM of GOD, Adam disobeyed what God said and disobeyed — SINNED. Then what?

"And the ETERNAL God said... and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the ETERNAL God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man: and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" (Gen. 3:22-24).

Now GRASP THIS, please! Do not forget God's great PURPOSE! Through human man, composed of material substance, God is reproducing Himself — adding to His own holy, righteous, sinless GOD FAMILY. But God is composed of SPIRIT. How does God *bridge the gap* between mortal physical man and immortal SPIRIT-composed God?

The *very first* human had made the wrong choice, and by SIN rejected the GOVERNMENT of GOD. God had driven him out of the garden of Eden and blocked all possible reentry to the tree of life. But of course God anticipated the

probability of this. God's PURPOSE must, nevertheless, STAND! But *HOW*?

It now required the "second Adam" — Jesus Christ. He had offered Himself before the world was. But He was not to come, born human for the purpose of death, for about another 4,000 years.

God had marked out a 7,000-year period — the first 6,000 for mankind, *cut off from God* (with few exceptions), to go his own way — to write the lesson in human suffering and anguish of living *contrary* to GOD'S WAY OF LIFE, commanded by the GOVERNMENT of GOD — which Adam rejected.

This 6,000 years, with Satan still here, would be followed by a single 1,000 years, during which CHRIST would rule, having qualified to restore the GOVERNMENT of GOD on earth. Satan would be totally restrained during the seventh millennium.

During that seventh millennium, the KINGDOM of GOD — the RULING FAMILY OF GOD — would be established on earth.

Perfect spiritual and holy character cannot be created by divine fiat. It must be developed over a period of time, and requires a lifetime of experience.

Meanwhile, during the first 6,000 years, FEW would be offered opportunity to enter into the *spiritual creation*, which begins with the receiving of the SECOND SPIRIT — that is, the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT of God. Outside of this comparative few, God adopted a "hands-off" policy toward the human race. Abel, Adam's second son, apparently followed God's way, for Christ called him "righteous Abel." Enoch "walked with God." Noah found favor with God — but apparently that was all during the first 1,900 years or so.

After the flood, Abraham, Isaac, Israel, and Joseph lived God's way. Then God called and formed the nation of Israel, but they were offered no spiritual salvation or eternal life — only material and national blessings. God called and used a few prophets. Then Christ came and made spiritual salvation possible for all. Yet only the first comparatively very small spiritual harvest has been called to spiritual salvation during the nearly 2,000 years.

Human Reproduction the Type of God's Reproducing Himself

Few people realize that human reproduction has a sacred and GOD-PLANE MEANING NOT APPLICABLE TO ANY OTHER KIND OF LIFE.

Human reproduction pictures spiritual salvation — which is actually God the Father reproducing Himself in the GOD FAMILY.

Now see the ASTOUNDING COMPARISON!

MAN, remember, is composed wholly

of MATTER from the ground (Gen. 2:7 and 3:19). But how can God bridge the gap, in reproducing Himself, of converting a wholly physical man into a wholly spirit-composed member of the GOD FAMILY?

It *starts* with a spirit (a portion of spirit essence) IN the wholly physical man. Remember, this spirit is NOT the man — only something IN the man. Remember, too, this spirit cannot see, hear, or think. The MAN sees, hears, and thinks through his physical brain and the five senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling. The spirit in man imparts the power of PHYSICAL INTELLECT to the physical brain, thus forming human MIND. This spirit acts, among other things, as a COMPUTER, adding to the brain the psychic and intellectual power. Knowledge received in the brain through the eye, ear, and the senses is immediately "programmed" into the spirit computer. All memory is stored in this spirit computer. This "computer" gives the brain *instant recall* of whatever portion of millions of bits of knowledge may be needed in the reasoning process. That is to say that MEMORY is recorded in the human spirit, whether or not it also is recorded in the "gray matter" of BRAIN.

This human spirit also adds to man a spiritual and moral faculty not possessed by animals.

God had made the needed second spirit — the HOLY SPIRIT — available to Adam. But on Adam's rebellion and taking the forbidden fruit, God had driven Adam out and closed all access to the tree of LIFE — symbolical of His holy spirit.

Yet through Christ, a repentant humanity may yet receive God's GIFT of His holy spirit. To Nicodemus Christ said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Of course Nicodemus could not quite understand that. Almost nobody today understands it. Jesus explained, "That which is born of the flesh IS FLESH, and that which is born of the Spirit IS SPIRIT" (John 3:6). Man came from the ground. He IS flesh. Jesus was not talking about another *physical* birth — but about a *spiritual* birth — when man shall BE spirit, no longer composed of matter, but composed wholly of SPIRIT! Yes, LITERALLY! Then he shall have been born of God. God is a spirit (John 4:24).

Now to become human, each of us had to be *begotten* by his human father. Likewise, to be born *again* — of the SPIRIT which is of God the Father, one must first be *begotten* of the SPIRITUAL FATHER — of God.

This is explained in Romans 8:16: "The Spirit [of God] itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the [begotten] children of God: and if children, then heirs [not yet inheritors or possessors]; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..."

And God's holy spirit, now combined with our human spirit in the human MIND, does two things: (1) begets the human with divine eternal life to be later BORN into the GOD FAMILY as a divine being, then composed wholly of spirit and (2) imparts to the human

mind power to comprehend SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE — to understand the things of God (I Cor. 2:11).

This spirit-begotten Christian now has, conditionally, the PRESENCE OF ETERNAL LIFE — GOD LIFE — within him (or her), but he is NOT YET an immortal SPIRIT BEING — not yet composed wholly of SPIRIT.

He is now an heir of God as the son of a wealthy man is the heir of his father — but NOT YET “born again,” — NOT YET an inheritor or a possessor. But if His holy spirit dwells in us, God will, at Christ’s coming back to earth as King of kings, “quicken” to immortality our mortal bodies BY His spirit that dwells in us (Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 15:49-53).

Now see how the astonishing analogy continues:

Just as in human reproduction, the impregnated embryo, which later becomes the fetus, is not yet BORN, but still being nourished through the human mother; so the begotten Christian is not yet BORN into the God family. The divine life has merely been begotten.

Satan has managed to deceive most of fundamental Christianity into believing they already are “born again” on accepting Christ.

But just as in human reproduction when the HUMAN characteristics of form and shape and the human, body and brain gradually begin to form during the period of gestation, so now the RIGHTEOUS and HOLY CHARACTER of God begins to take form and GROW. Actually in many, this divine CHARACTER may form so slowly it seems hardly in evidence at first, except that in some there will appear the glow of that ecstasy of spiritual “romance” — which may radiate in that “first love” of spiritual conversion. But, so far as growing in SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE (II Pet. 3:18) and spiritual CHARACTER goes, most of that is still to be learned and developed.

When newly converted, one is now a spiritual “EMBRYO.” Now he must be nourished and fed on SPIRITUAL FOOD. Jesus said man must not live by bread (physical food) alone, but by EVERY WORD OF GOD. THE BIBLE is the written Word of God, just as Christ is the personal Word of God. This growth is the character development that REQUIRES TIME and comes largely by EXPERIENCE.

Above all, it requires continual BIBLE STUDY to show ONE’S SELF approved of God, as well as much continual and earnest PRAYER. When you study the Bible, GOD IS TALKING TO YOU. When you PRAY, YOU ARE TALKING TO HIM. You get to really KNOW God in this manner, just as you become better acquainted with people by conversation.

Yet much of this spiritual character development comes through Christian fellowship with other spiritually begotten people in God’s church.

Further, just as the human physical embryo and fetus are given physical nourishment through the human mother, God’s CHURCH is the spiritual MOTHER of its members. God’s church is called “Jerusalem above, which is the MOTHER of us all” (Gal. 4:26).

Notice the exact parallel. God has set called and chosen ministers in His church to feed the flock, “for the perfecting of the saints, for THE WORK OF

THE MINISTRY [proclaiming Christ’s gospel of the kingdom of God in all the world], for the edifying of the body [church] of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:12-13).

It is the duty of Christ’s true ministers (and how few today), to PROTECT the begotten but yet unborn saints from false doctrines and from false ministers!

What a wonderful picture of God’s reproducing Himself is human reproduction!

And remember God intended human reproduction to be a FAMILY matter. It adds human children to the human FAMILY. The HUMAN FAMILY is the exact TYPE of the GOD FAMILY. God has bestowed MARRIAGE and FAMILY life on NO OTHER form of life except on HUMANS, whose potential it is to enter the FAMILY of GOD!

But consider further! As the physical human fetus must grow physically large

Character is the ability to distinguish the true values from the false, to choose the true and reject the false, and, with the power of will, to do the right and resist the evil.

enough to be born, so the begotten Christian must grow spiritually in grace and knowledge of Christ (II Pet. 3:18) — must overcome, develop in spiritual character, during this life, to be born into the kingdom of God!

That is well illustrated by the parables of the pounds and the talents. In the parable of the pounds (Luke 9:11-27), Jesus pictured himself as a nobleman going to a far country (heaven) to receive a kingdom and later to return. He called his ten servants and gave each a pound. While He was gone, one of the ten traded with the money and gained ten pounds. He was commended and made ruler over ten cities in the kingdom of God. A second gained only five pounds — he did half as well, starting with EQUAL ability. He was given reign over five cities. A third gained NOTHING — and had even that pound taken from him. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), one was given five talents, another two talents, and another one — each according to his own ability (like handicap golf). On Christ’s return, the one who had been given five talents had gained five more (representing spiritual growth and overcoming in this life). He was commended as a good and faithful servant and given responsibilities accordingly in God’s kingdom. The one who had two gained another two — just as much in proportion to ability. He, too, received an equal reward. But the one who had been given the one did NOTHING WITH IT. In other words, in his Christian life here and now, he did not overcome, he did not grow spiritually —

he developed no character. He represents one who “RECEIVED CHRIST” and considered he was already “born again” but did not think he needed to overcome, grow spiritually, or develop spiritual character. He thought he was “already saved.” He said he didn’t believe in salvation by “works.” What he didn’t realize is that while salvation is a FREE GIFT, we are REWARDED according to our works. But by doing NOTHING, he lost not ONLY the reward, but he lost out on the free GIFT of eternal life.

Christ’s answer to such, when He returns with the KINGDOM of GOD, is, “Thou wicked and slothful servant . . . Take therefore the talent from him . . . And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer-darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Many have been deceived into a FALSE “salvation.”

To conclude the parallel: As the physical fetus gradually develops the physical features, organs and characteristics one by one, even so the begotten Christian must develop in SPIRITUAL CHARACTER during this life, one by one, love, faith, spiritual knowledge, patience, gentleness, kindness, and temperance. He must be a DOER of the Word of God.

Bridging the Gap

Finally, how has God planned to “bridge the gap” from physical to spiritual composition — to reproduce Himself out of PHYSICAL HUMANS THAT COME FROM THE PHYSICAL GROUND.

First, He put IN the physical MAN a “human” spirit. It is NOT, however, the human spirit that makes the decisions, comes to repentance, or builds the character. As I have emphasized, this spirit does not impart life, cannot see, hear, feel or think. It empowers the PHYSICAL MAN, through his BRAIN, to do these things. But this spirit RECORDS every thought — every bit of knowledge received through the five senses.

The human MAN is made literally from CLAY. It is like the master potter forming and shaping a vessel out of clay. But if the clay is too hard, it will not bend into the form and shape he wants. If it is too soft and moist, it lacks firmness to “STAY PUT” where the potter bends it.

Notice in Isaiah 64:8: “But now, O ETERNAL, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.”

Yet God has given each of us a MIND OF HIS OWN. If one REFUSES to acknowledge God or God’s ways — refuses to repent of the wrong and turn to the right, God cannot take him and create godly character in him. But the human CLAY must be pliable — must yield willingly. If the human stiffens up and resists, he is like clay that is too dry and stiff. The potter can do nothing with it. It will not give and bend. If he is so lacking in will, purpose, and determination that he won’t “stay put” when God molds him partly into what God wants him to be and he is too wishy-washy, weak, and lacking root of character, he will never endure to the end. He will lose out.

We are, in truth, the WORK OF HIS HANDS. Yet we ourselves must do our part in this spiritual development. If we lazily neglect Bible study and prayer —

or if we let other material interests become more important and we NEGLECT such great salvation, we lose out.

But if we have the strength of character to YIELD — of our own WILL put ourselves in God’s hands — He will instill within us His SPIRIT and by it His righteousness — His character — open our minds to His spiritual knowledge. We have to WANT IT! We have to WORK AT IT! We have to PUT IT FIRST, above all else.

It must be GOD’S righteousness, for all of OURS is like filthy rags to Him. He continually instills His knowledge, His righteousness, His character within us — IF we diligently seek it and want it. BUT WE HAVE OUR VERY IMPORTANT PART IN IT. Then all credit goes to GOD.

As we receive the CHARACTER of GOD through the holy spirit of God, more and more God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF IN US.

Finally, in the resurrection, we shall be as God — in position where we cannot sin, because we ourselves have set it so and have turned FROM sin and have struggled and struggled AGAINST sin and overcome sin.

God’s PURPOSE WILL be accomplished!

WHY Made From Material Substance?

Once again, STOP and THINK! WHY did God choose to make MAN out of physical matter instead of spirit? He made angels out of spirit.

Remember God’s PURPOSE is to reproduce Himself! His divine children are to be begotten of Him and then BORN into His God family. Christ, our pioneer, was begotten by the Father in a manner no one else ever was, when conceived by the holy spirit in the virgin Mary. He was the begotten (the ONLY begotten, in that manner) Son of God from human conception and birth. He is already the FIRSTBORN of many brethren (Rom. 8:29), born a Son of God by a resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:4), as we may be later.

To show the preeminence above angels that is already Christ’s and also is our potential, remember we are joint-heirs with Christ, and God says of Christ, “being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?” (Heb. 1:4-5.) In the book of Job angels are spoken of as sons of God in chapters 1, 2, and 7, but only as created “sons.” Still, as in Hebrews 1, God never said to them, “You are my own begotten sons.” But when we humans receive the holy spirit of God, we do become His begotten sons and His heirs, to receive by inheritance HIS NAME — just as my begotten sons inherited my name.

When we are BORN of God, we shall BE spirit. Then why did God form man in the first place of material substance — out of the earth?

I have partially answered that question already. Angels, being spirit, are immortal. Those who sinned shall go on bearing their punishment forever. Their punishment is NOT death. Their punishment is loss of the glorious opportunity God gave them to accomplish His pur-

pose on earth and to live forever in the resentment, bitterness, attitude of rebellion, and utter hopelessness and frustration of mind their own sins brought upon them. Once they perverted their own minds, they can never regain balance. Happiness and joy has left them forever.

Whereas, if MAN, composed of matter, sinned and refused to repent and turn from his sin, he will die the second death — he shall utterly PERISH — he will be as though he had not been (Obadiah 16). This reflects God's MERCY.

But there is another all-important reason. As the humanist philosopher Elbert Hubbard said, "Nothing is permanent but change." Matter does not remain as it is, unchanged, permanently. But it continues changing permanently. Perhaps stone or iron is as unchanging as any elements. But after a few thousand years, the giant stones in the wall around Jerusalem have lost all their newness and show their age. Whatever you see now on this earth will CHANGE. In time it will CHANGE.

Spirit is CHANGELESS — except as God instilled in angel beings the power of mind — of thinking, reasoning, making decisions and exercising will to act on decisions or choices. But spirit substance apart from the mind power of God or spirit beings is CHANGELESS.

In reproducing Himself God requires righteous CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. And that requires CHANGE. If God had made us of spirit, the spirit couldn't change. Man, composed of matter, is subject to CHANGE. Man, if called by God, can be made to realize that he has sinned, and he can REPENT — CHANGE from his sin — turn to GOD'S WAY. And once his course is changed, with God's help he can pursue it. He can grow in spiritual knowledge, develop character, overcome wrong habits, weaknesses, and faults. And this is all done by the PHYSICAL MAN, through the PHYSICAL BRAIN.

The human spirit in man empowers the brain with physical intellect, and the spirit of God united with it empowers the brain with spiritual comprehension, and these spirits RECORD the knowledge and the character and preserve them, as well as the physical shape and appearance. These spirits do not develop the righteous character, but through the holy spirit God does give us His faith, His righteousness — as long as we ourselves earnestly desire it. But once character is developed in physical man, HOW does God bridge the gap, changing MAN into SPIRIT?

The Spirit MOLD

I have shown you that the Scriptures picture man as the clay — which he literally is — and God as our potter. We might call God, also, our SCULPTOR, for with our submission and eager willingness, we are the WORK OF HIS HANDS in spiritual and character development. As Job said, "If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my CHANGE come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee [in the resurrection]: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands" (Job 14:14-15).

This brings us to the question of death of the physical MAN and the resurrection

which Job called the "CHANGE" into the kingdom of God.

Now notice, as quoted before, in Isaiah 64:8: "But now, O ETERNAL, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter, and we all are the work of thy hand."

God could not form, shape, change, and develop His character in us had we been made of spirit.

Notice further: "Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?" (Isa. 45:9.)

Another passage of scripture so often misapplied: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it [the faith] is the gift of God: not of works . . ." We do not earn salvation by good works or gain it by works — BUT when we receive it as God's GIFT, the degree of reward will be according to our "works" (Matt. 16:27) — performance in living GOD'S WAY — building character.

But now read the rest of this passage

The physical body, after death, decomposes and decays, but the spirit that was in that body, like the sculptor's mold, preserves the form, the shape, the memory, and the character.

which is nearly always purposely omitted by those misleading people on this point: "... not of works" . . . Why? . . . "lest any man should boast. For we are HIS WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10).

I have tried to point out that we must gain contact with God and that He is the potter — or sculptor — fashioning, molding, and shaping our lives and righteous character into His CHARACTER IMAGE, AS WE DESIRE AND YIELD.

All right. The godly character in us, I have stated, cannot be created by fiat. It must be developed. We must yield. We must desire it, seek it. But it comes from GOD. Thus if we keep a close daily contact with our Creator, through His spirit and through our spirit — for remember, His holy spirit "beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16) — then He is fashioning and shaping our characters. Had God made us of spirit, this could not be done.

Now, as Job brought out, we die. Afterlife comes through the resurrection. When we die, all consciousness ceases. Send for the free booklet *After Death . . . Then What?* The physical brain becomes unconscious and decays.

With what body do we come in the resurrection? That question is answered in I Corinthians 15:35-38: "But some man will say; How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? . . . that which thou sowest [burial in ground], thou sowest NOT that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may

chance of wheat, or of some other grain: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him."

The body that dies is NOT the same body that will come up in the resurrection.

Now we come to a MOST IMPORTANT part for the SPIRIT IN MAN — which I have termed the "human spirit." It does not impart human life. It does not see, hear or think. The HUMAN MAN makes his decisions, and it is in the physical MAN that character must be built. It is the human CLAY that God forms into His character. The SPIRIT in man RECORDS what the brain comes to know, even the attitude, the facets of CHARACTER, not only of the human brain, but also of the whole body. It keeps the imprint even of the fingerprints.

Compare it to a sculptor's mold. The sculptor may want to produce a bronze statue of a man. The sculptor might use clay to form a clay model — or other material. Then the sculptor makes a MOLD of the model he has formed and shaped. The mold is a hollow form, made from the finished model. Into the mold is poured molten liquid bronze. The mold is removed, and the bronze figure is an EXACT copy of the original model.

The spirit that is in every human acts as a MOLD. It PRESERVES the human's MEMORY, his CHARACTER, his precise FORM AND SHAPE.

Now I do not conceive that the spirit is a hollow form. But it supplies the same purpose as the sculptor's mold. If one has received the holy spirit, then in the resurrection, the resurrected being will be COMPOSED OF SPIRIT, not matter as the human model was. But in the resurrected SPIRIT form he will suddenly come ALIVE. It will seem like the next flash of a second from his loss of consciousness at time of death. He will have all his memory intact. He will look as he did in human life in form and shape. Even his fingerprints will be the same.

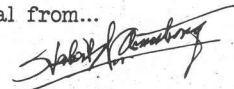
The CHARACTER which he allowed God to build within him will be there. He will be alive FOREVER! And, like God the Father, by his own will, he will have been made so that he CANNOT sin.

The body that comes in the resurrection is not the same body that was flesh and blood in this human lifetime. God does not turn flesh and blood matter INTO spirit. The flesh and blood physical body, after death, decomposed and decayed, but the spirit that was IN that body, like the sculptor's mold, preserves all the form and shape, the memory, and the character INTACT.

Notice what happens AT DEATH. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." After death, whether buried in the earth, cremated, or what, the physical body returns to the earth. But the spirit that was in the man, now having recorded everything — the body's form and shape, the facial identity, the memory and the character — returns to God. It will be PRESERVED UNCHANGED. Such saints as Abraham, Moses, David and Daniel died thousands of years ago.

So STOP AND THINK ABOUT THAT! God had to provide some way to PRESERVE the form, shape, appearance, mind and character of saints for thou-

Personal from...



(Continued from page 1)

NO CREDIBILITY, it would seem. Yet He is the one who shall finally STOP the overthrow of governments on earth and usher in WORLD PEACE the only way it can be brought about — BY the POWER of the Creator God, setting up the GOVERNMENT of the KINGDOM of GOD on earth — one super, world-ruling government over all the nations of earth.

He who has suffered the greatest CREDIBILITY GAP of all time will finally rule FOREVER in PEACE. The prophecy says:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

He will have 100% credibility EVERYWHERE then! □

sands of years. They were composed of corruptible flesh and blood. All that was THEM (man is composed wholly of matter) long since decomposed. Yet in the resurrection, it will seem to them as the next fraction of a second since loss of consciousness at death.

In death, they knew absolutely NOTHING. Says God's Word, "For the living know that they SHALL DIE: but the dead KNOW NOT ANY THING" (Eccl. 9:5).

The spirit which returns to God is the human spirit that was in them throughout life. It was not an "immortal soul," for the soul was mortal and corruptible.

Those who died with God's holy spirit will be in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5). They will come forth IMMORTAL, in a glorious body of SPIRIT composition, their faces aglow as the SUN.

All others who have not been called to eternal salvation by God during their human lifetimes will be resurrected after the thousand-year reign of the kingdom of God under Christ, in the "great white throne judgment" (Rev. 20:11-12). They will be resurrected MORTAL, once again in a flesh and blood physical body, just as before. In this great judgment they will be "called" — their eyes opened to God's truth. Then, finally, there will be a last resurrection (Rev. 20:13-15) of those who HAD been called by God in their mortal human life, but had rejected or turned from it. They, with those who reject it in the great white throne judgment, will be in the "lake of fire" (I Pet. 3:10-11), which is the second death. They then shall be ashes under the soles of the feet of the immortals in God's kingdom (Mal. 4:3), and will be as though they had never been (Obadiah 16).

Then, ahead of the millions of immortal redeemed, shall lie the tremendous awesome HUMAN POTENTIAL — when God the Creator shall have put THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE under our jurisdiction (Heb. 2:7-8). □