



Spiritual Realities - Vol 5: Spiritual Dynamics Between People

Description

What is going on spiritually between you and the people around you? Now you can understand spiritual bonds, authority streams, group consciousness, family dynamics, the power of covenants, and free will.

Introduction

The soul of man remains superimposed upon and associated with the physical body. The spirit, however, is not limited to the confines of the body. It originated with the breath of God, and therefore, is not limited to natural laws. This God stuff in each of us is the energy which circulates and flows, enabling us to live, think, and influence the world around us.

We established these truths about man's nature in preceding volumes. I refer you back to those writings for fuller understanding.

Our focus in this volume will be upon the dynamics and interaction between people's spirits. Our spirits influence each other. It is eye-opening to see some of these truths revealed both in the Bible and in present-day experiences.

Preview Chapter

CHAPTER 1

Becoming of One Accord and Bonding

There are specific properties of the human spirit which we can identify and discuss.

Understanding these properties will give great insight into human behavior and the spiritual dynamics between people.

For example, we find in the New Testament that the disciples became of one accord on several occasions (e.g., Acts 4:24; 5:12). As they became of one accord, they had their hearts oriented toward each other to such an extent that they were selling their personal properties and holding all possessions in common (e.g., Acts 2:44-45; 4:32). Both their desires and their thoughts were in agreement.

This property of the human spirit to become of one accord with others is key in understanding human behavior. It happens when people orient their hearts toward each other or toward a common goal.

We can obtain further understanding of this truth by examining the words of our Lord Jesus when He explained how two or more believers can come into agreement with each other (Matt. 18:19). The agreement of which He spoke is more than two people merely coming into a mental assent or people showing an outer form of unity. The Greek word which has been interpreted agreement, is *sumphoneo* (from which we get the word symphony). This Greek word often is used in reference to musical instruments being made to sound in one accord or in harmony. In this fashion, just as

musical instruments can come into harmony, so also can two or more people harmonize spiritually.

In order to develop a mental picture of what is taking place spiritually as two people come into agreement, envision two similar musical tuning forks. If one is struck so it begins vibrating, it will send off a specific tone. If the second tuning fork is moved close to the vibrating one, soon it too will begin to vibrate at the same frequency.

In similar fashion, the human spirit has the ability to become of one accord with the spirits of those around. To borrow from the specialized vocabulary of sound production, we could say they become of the same frequency, get on the same wavelength, or come into harmony with one another.

To some readers this vocabulary may sound too mystical for their comfort or too much like terminology used by those involved with New Age thinking. Please do not think that. Remember, we are attempting to understand phenomena which took place in the Bible, and hence, principles which work in relationships between people today.

The Apostle Paul used the term harmony when warning Christians not to become united too closely with evil people, giving themselves over to idols:

Do not be bound together with unbelievers....What harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (II Cor. 6:14-15, emphasis added).

We examined this passage in Volume II, Chapter 6, and saw how the Christian's spirit actually can become defiled if and when he comes into harmony with those giving themselves over to sin.

What we want to identify here is how people can come into agreement, one accord, or harmony with others; and how this phenomenon involves their entire being, including their spirits.

It is the orientation of the heart which determines with whom a person will come into harmony. (I assume the reader understands I am not referring to the muscle that pumps our blood). We use the term phrone (pronounced fro na; Vol. 4, Chapter 12) to refer to the orientation of a person's inner heart. As Proverbs 4:23 tells us, from the heart flow all the issues of life. Because the heart is the core or center from which our spiritual life flows, it determines with whom we will be in tune. As any two or more people phrone their hearts in unison, they will come into agreement and unity. Next, we will add to our understanding of the human spirit how two or more people may become bonded to one another. As we discuss this, keep it separated in your mind from the act of becoming of one accord. Later, we will learn how these two spiritual phenomena may take place simultaneously; however, we first want to identify these dynamics as distinct in character.

Our first example of bonding can be that which takes place between Christians. We are told in the Bible that all believers are submerged by the Holy Spirit into one Body (I Cor. 12:12-13). We are united in the spiritual dimension. When one part hurts, we all hurt; as one is blessed, we are all partakers of that blessing (I Cor. 12:26). Our spirits are bonded in such a fashion that they influence each other, both positively and negatively. This is the way God made us.

People also are bonded together in the marriage relationship: "two become one." These words are not merely figures of speech, but should be taken in a deep and very real sense. As married people point their hearts toward each other and grow in their commitment to each other, the bonding between them deepens.

Whenever people open their hearts to one another, they may become bonded. Friends become spiritually linked. For example, we are told in First Samuel 18:1 that "...the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself."

Some Christians call such relationships "soul ties." In an earlier volume, we pointed out that the term "soul tie" can be misleading. When the Bible says, "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David," it is not implying that the soul of either reached out across space and touched the soul of the other. No. We understand that the soul is limited to the confines of the body (except at death and in certain cases discussed in Volumes IV and VII). Therefore, it is more accurate to see these bonds as spiritual energy emanating from the soul and touching the soul of another. It is spiritual substance which ties the soul of one to the soul of another.

These bonds occur in numerous situations of life. Parents and children bond with one another, and this is good and right. Co-workers unite in heart and, therefore, spiritually as well. Any people who share experiences, especially those experiences demanding commitments, bond to one another, and those associations are real spiritual ties knitting their souls together.

In order to embrace this truth, we must accept that the substance of the human spirit is cohesive. We will use this term to explain the property of the human spirit to stick to, merge with, or blend with the spirits of others.

This property is more than just a mixing of two people's spiritual energies. We are attempting to develop a biblical view of how God created man to function. More is involved than the spirits of people sticking to each other. The spiritual energy of one actually merges (in the sense of becoming one) with the spiritual substance of others. Only if we accept this property can we understand the spiritual dynamics we observe in life and read about in the Bible.

For example, we are told that in the marriage relationship, two become one. Our Lord emphasized this truth by saying, "They are no longer two, but one" (Matt. 19:6).

In the natural world, one plus one always equals two. In the spiritual world that is not necessarily so. When speaking of the merging of spiritual energies, one plus one can equal one. We are not talking just about joining or adding, but a supernatural-spiritual-merging.

It is in this fashion that we understand all spiritual bonding takes place.

We explained such merging in Volume II, Chapter 5, when discussing the merging of God's Spirit with the believer's spirit. The Apostle Paul explained: "But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him" (1 Cor. 6:17). The example we gave in that earlier discussion was how a certain tribe of people express their love for one another, not by kissing, but by a man and a woman inhaling each other's breath. That is a powerful picture of the spirits of two people intermingling and being taken within. Similarly, when the Christian is united with God, their spirits are no longer two, but one.

The depth of merging between two people is determined by the depth of heart commitment. The strength of the bond is the result of individuals pointing their hearts toward each other. As they work together, they increase their unity. As they go through trials and difficulties, their hearts must be more fixed and stable. Each time a problem arises, they each must make a decision whether to remain together or split and go their independent ways. Therefore, every project, trial, or stress is an opportunity for people to deepen the spiritual bonding between them.

When speaking of open commitments between two or more people, we sometimes use the term covenant relationships. In some Christian circles these terms have been abused, and people have been coerced into abusive relationships. Here we are not referring to any manipulative, controlling type of bonds between people. Rather, we simply are speaking of deep levels of commitment which all people form at various times during their lives. Those commitments may have been formed through spoken words, long periods of time together, or just investments by those involved which demand great sacrifices. Covenants made openly and in the depths of people's hearts establish spiritual forces that influence every person's life. We will see profound implications from covenant relationships in the following chapters, but first we want to explain another spiritual dynamic occurring between people.

Back Cover

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Harold R. Eberle has become known internationally as a teacher to the Body of Christ. Having traveled extensively and authoring several books, he has influenced leaders' lives all over the world. His passion is for the maturation of the Church.

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