



Spiritual Realities - Vol 4: Powers and Activities of the Human Spirit

Description

God created you in His image, with His breath. Discover what this means in relation to your creative powers, spoken words, dreams, and experiences in space/time. Here is a biblical explanation of spiritual phenomena.

Introduction

The Christian faith declares that we have more to our being than just a physical body. There is an invisible, spiritual side to our nature. Although all Christians accept this fact, few have dared to consider the implications. Let's be daring.

In Volume II, we laid out the fundamentals of man's nature. In addition to the physical body, we investigated the invisible side and discovered that it consists of two elements, a soul and a spirit. We saw the soul as superimposed over the physical body, having the same shape and size. The spirit, we learned, is the flowing energy within. This energy sustains life within the soul and within the physical body (Job 34:14-15). It also acts as a light, quickening our thoughts and allowing us to think (1 Cor. 2:11). The spirit of man is the invisible energy circulating and flowing within as a river from our heart (Prov. 4:23).

The spirit of man originated with the first breath God breathed into Adam. That spiritual substance is passed through the generational lines. Because the spirit of man has its source in God, it is spiritual in nature, and therefore, is not limited by natural laws. This God-stuff in us has supernatural properties. The implications of this are profound.

As we delve into these subjects, keep in mind that all human beings, Christians and non-Christians, have spiritual energy flowing within them. There is a difference, however, between the spirit of the Christian and that of the non-Christian. Through sin, people experience spiritual death. However, when a person places their faith in Jesus Christ, they receive a fresh injection of God's life. Jesus explained that the rivers flowing within the believer would be rivers of "living" water (John 7:37-39). Every human being has a spirit that sustains his life and flows like energy, but only the believer has a spirit which has been made alive by a fresh injection of God's life (Rom. 8:10).

To see these basic concepts developed from a biblical perspective, I refer you back to Volume II. Proceeding from here, we now will study how the spirit of man can reach beyond his physical body to touch and influence both the natural and the spiritual worlds.

Preview Chapter

CHAPTER 1 Spiritual Presence

The spirit not only flows within man, but it emanates out beyond the confines of the human body.

Consider how this works.

The first outer manifestation of this spiritual energy is upon the countenance of a person. The Bible refers to this in several passages, especially in respect to people focusing their attention upon God. For example in Psalms 34:5, we are told:

They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces shall never be ashamed.

Moses approached the people after having talked with God; his face shone so brightly that he had to put a veil over it (I Cor. 3:13).

In the Old Testament times, the Jewish women were noted for their increased beauty as they came out from the presence of God. On the negative side, we can read how Cain's countenance had noticeably fallen after he committed the murder of his brother (Gen. 4:6-7).

These countenance changes are due in part to changes in the flow of spiritual energy within a person. The spirit of man responds to the presence of God. It is also true that when people are full of life, there is a spiritual brightness about them. When the channel of the soul is opened, the life-energy within a person flows out, and it becomes tangibly evident.

Most people have observed this phenomenon in relation to the beauty of another individual. At times a person may exude an undeniable "glow." A husband may look at his wife and to him she appears to be "without spot or wrinkle." A young man may be mesmerized by the captivating beauty of a certain woman. As two single people catch each other's eyes, they may feel an energy radiating between them. In such situations, we discover that beauty is not just a function of natural features, but also the result of spiritual dynamics between people. (Read more about this in my book, *Two Become One*.)

Some researchers today claim to have observable evidence of energy surrounding every single person. Some of these studies are not as scientific as others, and we do not want to accept all as being equally reliable. However, the existence of this energy is undeniable. There have been many attempts, using modern technology, to photograph the energy fields surrounding individuals. Kirlian photography is most noted for the related studies, and, although Christians must not be gullible in believing everything being taught, there is some scientific data indicating an energy field around every living human body.

We must understand that scientifically-based techniques do not measure directly the spiritual energy, because spiritual things cannot be perceived by natural methods. What is happening is that the spiritual energy is influencing the natural elements in the atmosphere surrounding a person. The instruments being used measure in some way the effects of the spiritual energy upon the natural elements. This is an important fact in our understanding of how the spiritual world influences the natural.

Those who are or have been involved in various occult and mystical groups have proceeded beyond actual facts and have developed numerous teachings concerning this emanating energy. Typically, they talk about "auras" surrounding people and how various colors in people's auras mean certain things about their lives. Of course, Christians today may hesitate in using terms coined by those with evil interests, but the Bible-believer need not deny the existence of this spiritual energy. God is the one who breathed spiritual substance into man, and the Bible teaches us clearly that it flows outward as rivers from a person's innermost being.

This spiritual energy not only changes the countenance of a person, but it also emanates out from all human beings and surrounds them. A spiritual presence envelops every person and it can be sensed by others. You can identify this when someone sneaks up behind you. Usually, it is not very long until you "feel" them. The reality of such a presence beyond the confines of the human body can be seen in many situations of life, and even studied.

A related phenomenon can be observed when a thief breaks into a person's home during the night, and the homeowner awakens with a feeling of fear or apprehension. Such experiences only can be explained with an acceptance of the spiritual dynamics occurring between people.

Even more amazing are the responses stimulated in people who are being watched. For example, think of two strangers sitting at different tables in a restaurant. If one stares at the other without the second knowing it, sooner or later the second is likely to turn to see who is looking. Most people have experienced such spirit contact responses in some situation of their lives.

The spiritual presence surrounding and given off by a person is unique to that person and it influences other people in specific ways. For example, when a person is very angry, there is a tangible energy given off by them that causes others to be cautious when approaching. At other times, a person may have a very calm, gracious heart emitting a flow of peace to others. Even animals can sense this, as we can see when a house cat crawls into the lap of a relaxed individual. The experienced hunter knows that if he takes on a peaceful and confident attitude, wild animals will be less likely to detect him. In relationships between people, some individuals send out "sexual vibes" that let others know they are interested in certain wrong relationships. When a person is in self-pity, others around may feel the individual trying to draw attention to

himself. People with arrogant attitudes project spiritual energy that can make others feel inferior. Some people emit spiritual energy that brings joy and happiness. All human beings have spiritual energy emanating from them, and that energy reflects the personality, purpose, and authority of the individual.

It is essential that you remember that the springs of life flow from the heart of man (Prov. 4:23). Therefore, heart-felt motivations and desires have much to do with the strength and character of the spiritual energy flowing out of an individual. Where a person directs his heart, that is where the spiritual energy within him flows. The strength of that flow is determined much by the decisions made deep within. The focus of one's entire being toward specific goals is as powerful and important as having agreement throughout a person's being with no confusion or indecision. In earlier volumes, we have discussed these and other characteristics which determine the strength of the spiritual flow. We do not need to repeat those discussions here but only refer to them, and then add to our understanding the following determining factor.

The acceptance of personal responsibility also determines the flow of spiritual energy from a person. We can see this when we talk about the spiritual presence surrounding an individual. Every person develops a sense of ownership over the area just around them. If a stranger suddenly stepped two inches in front of your face, you probably would be offended, and you would be right in asking, "What are you doing in my space?" The truth is that you have accepted responsibility and demanded authority over the space right around your body. Different people establish different limits to their space. Even in different cultures of the world and in different socioeconomic classes, people are taught to claim a certain amount of area around themselves. That of which they take possession in their heart becomes the area of their spiritual presence. A loved one may be allowed to step inside, but others must be invited. It is a reality of how we are made and how we live.

Keep these principles in mind: the orientation of one's heart and the acceptance of personal responsibility determines the spiritual flow from one's innermost being. This will have great implications as we continue to develop a biblical perspective concerning the flow of spiritual energy from our innermost being.

Back Cover

Writing for the 21st Century

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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