

Introduction

- Have you ever wondered as a Christian what are those riches of the glory of God's inheritance in the saints and the what is the surpassing greatness of His power that apostle Paul talks about in Ephesians 1:18-19?

Ephesians 1:18-19 (NASB)

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are **the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**,

¹⁹ and what is **the surpassing greatness of His power** toward us who believe.

- How does that inheritance apply to me personally here on earth? What can I use of it and how can I use it? Or what does it mean what Paul says in Romans 8:16-17, that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ?

Romans 8:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, **heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

- What are we heirs of and how does that help me in any way? When you receive an inheritance, you want to know exactly what it consist of and how you can take possession of it. What does actually happen in people when they receive the Lord Jesus Christ in their hearts and are born again? How does that help believers live a life of faith and victory on this earth for the honor of God? This is what we will be studying in this New Creation series, this is where we're heading. Understanding these things will have a tremendous impact in our prayer life, in the way we read and interpret the Word of God, in the way we worship, and in the way we interpret and handle the various issues of life.
- However, in order to understand all these things properly, we need to first understand how were the first human beings created, what is the constitution of human beings, what happened at the fall of the first man and in what state are human beings born in this world because of the fall.
- So we will begin our journey at the moment of creation and even before that. We will begin with God Himself and we will lay some foundational concepts about the spiritual realm, about the nature of God as Spirit, and about the nature of the human spirit.

1. Every Person Created By God Is a Spirit

- God is Spirit. Jesus is fully God, so He is Spirit as well. Moreover, the Holy Spirit is God, so He is Spirit too.

John 4:24 (NASB)

²⁴ " **God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- Every person created by God is first and foremost a spirit. Lucifer was created as a spirit and is still a spirit today. The angels and demons are spirits as well. Adam was created in God's own image (Genesis 1:27)

and since God was a Spirit, the first man was a spirit as well. Of course, God formed a body for Adam from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7), but when He breathed His life into the body, that was the real person of Adam (his spirit) and not his body.

Genesis 1:27 (NASB)

²⁷ **God created man in His own image**, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:7 (NASB)

⁷ Then the LORD God **formed man of dust** from the ground, and **breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

2. Every Spirit Is a Real Person and Has a Nature

- Although invisible to the human eye, every spirit is a real person and has a nature. What I mean by real is that every person has an essence or a vital substance, it is not something symbolic, theoretical, or metaphorical. For instance, we cannot see the wind, but the wind has a substance and we can feel it when it blows. The same way is a spirit. What I mean by nature is that every person (spirit) has certain abilities and a certain way of thinking, of being, of acting, and of talking.
- God is real, He has a substantial essence, and He has a nature. The same can be said about the Holy Spirit and Jesus. Actually, all the 3 persons of the Godhead share the same nature. They are co-equal and co-eternal to that regard.
- Lucifer (or Satan) is real and has a nature as well, and before the fall in heaven, he even had a spiritual body because he could be seen, he was clothed in precious stones. Adam was real and had a nature as a spirit living in a body.
- I keep talking about the nature of a spirit or of a person, but what does this nature consist of? What is it?

3. The Nature of a Spirit Can Only Be Life or Death

- As we will see from the Bible, the nature of a spirit can only be LIFE or DEATH, that is, spiritual LIFE or spiritual DEATH.
- With God, there are no middle grounds, half measures, partial things, or mixing, but just eternal absolutes: guilty or justified, dead or alive, sin or righteousness, death or life, darkness or light.

Ephesians 2:5 (ESV)

⁵ even when we were **dead** in our trespasses, made us **alive** together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 5:8 (NASB)

⁸ for you were formerly **darkness**, but now you are **Light** in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

1 John 3:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of **death** into **life**, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

John 5:24 (NASB)

²⁴ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of **death** into **life**.

- Although I go little ahead of myself, from these verses we can notice that people that are not in Christ are dead in their spirit (have the nature of spiritual death), while born again Christians have eternal life in their spirit (spiritual life is their new nature).
- What is spiritual life (eternal life) ?
 - God the Father, the Son (the Word), and the Holy Spirit, all have spiritual eternal life in Themselves. Their nature is spiritual life.
 - The Father has life in Himself, and He gave that life to the Son as well:

John 5:26 (NASB)

²⁶ "For just as the Father **has life in Himself**, even so **He gave to the Son** also **to have life in Himself**;

- The Word was God and the Word was life:

John 1:1-5 (NASB)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

⁴ **In Him was life**, and **the life was the Light** of men.

⁵ The **Light** shines in the **darkness**, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

- The Holy Spirit has the same nature of life:

John 6:63 (NASB)

⁶³ "**It is the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are **spirit and are life**.

Romans 8:2 (NASB)

² For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

- One of the main purposes of Jesus coming on earth was to give the fallen humans the same life in their spirits, and that life in abundance. That is not abundant life, but the substance of life in abundance, which includes an abundant and prosperous life (or existence) as a by-product.

John 10:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

John 5:24 (NASB)

²⁴ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of **death** into **life**.

- Eternal life is the nature and the substance of God Himself from the realm of eternity:

John 17:3 (NASB)

³ "**This is eternal life**, that they may **know You, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- Eternal life is knowing God, the Father, and Jesus Christ.
- When you know a person very well, you know how he thinks, what he likes, what he hates, what he can do, you know the characteristics (attributes) of that person, his character, his nature.
- Eternal life is everything that God is and represents: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, holiness, righteousness, humility, clarity, integrity, honesty, truth, generosity, health, prosperity, wisdom, success, victory, power and strength.
- While life is one of the two possible natures of a spirit, it can also be considered as a realm, a dimension of living, a way of living.
- What is spiritual death?
 - When a spirit dies, it gets separated from God. That means spiritual death is everything opposite to spiritual life. It is everything God is not: hate, sadness, sorrow, depression, bitterness, distress, confusion, anger, rebellion, violence, wickedness, unfaithfulness, corruption, dishonesty, lies, immorality, impurity, sensuality, pride, lust, evil, failure, weakness, sinfulness, greed, sickness, disease, lack, curse, poverty, fear, imprudence, ignorance, idolatry, jealousy, drunkenness and strife.
 - Doesn't this list resemble with the sinful flesh?
 - We can understand better what spiritual death is, just by looking at what happened with Lucifer and Adam after they fell. Their spirits became death. Adam began to experience all these effects of death and of sin entrance in the world, and began to be subject to them only after the fall and not before.
- One more important thing to remember here, which is kind of obvious, is that between the 2 natures of a spirit there is a relation of subordination: life governs death, light dissipates darkness.

John 1:5 (ESV)

⁵ The **light** shines in the **darkness**, and **the darkness has not overcome it**.

- Now, we humans operate more in the physical realm for now. So, how can we detect life or death? How can we perceive the nature of a spirit? It is through an interface that every spirit possesses – the soul.

4. Every Spirit Has a Medium of Manifestation

- Every spirit has a soul as an interface, or a channel of manifestation for the nature of the spirit. The spirit is the heart or the core of a person, and that spirit is wrapped up in a soul.

- One important thing to remember here is that spirit and soul are inseparable, they cannot exist without each other. When God creates a spirit, it is automatically created with a soul. Even God who is Spirit, has a soul (will, emotions, reason, etc.) The spirit and the soul together constitute the spiritual, invisible component of a person. However, the spirit and the soul have slightly different roles. From here on, for the sake of easy communication, we will use the terminology: a person is a spirit, that has a soul and may live in a body.
- Depending on the nature of the spirit, all the areas of the soul (the will, the reason, the emotions, the beliefs, the speech) will manifest either spiritual life or spiritual death.
- The mind and the beliefs in the mind are trained in time to follow automatically after the nature of the spirit, and then all other aspects of the soul are heavily influenced by that training of the mind: the will, the reason, the emotions, the speech/mouth. Allow me to clarify this with a more detailed explanation.
- We know from psychology that the human mind has roughly 2 levels: a conscious one and an unconscious one. In the unconscious part of the mind (which includes the subconscious) are stored: the long-term memory, all the beliefs, habits (good or bad) and maybe addictions we built in time, all the experiences we've been through, recorded together with the feelings, sensations, colors, and smells that accompanied those particular moments in time, etc. The mind (which is part of the soul), especially the unconscious part of it, functions in such a way, that if the nature of a spirit changes instantly, the programming from the unconscious mind accumulated until that point does not change instantly. Instead it changes in time and with a conscious intentional effort. That is why the mind renewal process takes time. The mind can free or limit the manifestation of the nature of a spirit through the soul (emotions, reason, will, etc.) or through the physical body, if that spirit has one. In fact, not all spirits have a physical body.

5. A Spirit May Live in a Body

- For a spirit to exist, it doesn't need a physical body necessarily.
- If a spirit dwells in a body for a period, that body may be a physical human body or a spiritual body.
- For example, Jesus had a purely physical body before death, and a spiritual body after resurrection. The spiritual body could become at times invisible to the human eye.
- The spiritual body of Jesus was tangible and still physical at times. He could be touched (Thomas), He could eat (the fish with the disciples), but He could also disappear and appear in other places, and He could go through walls.
- As you can see, the physicality of a spirit it's not primordial. It is the spirit that governs the matter, the physical world, and not the other way around. We are so accustomed to the physical world that we even think from physical to spiritual, instead of from spiritual to physical.

6. The Spirit Governs the Matter

- God created all matter and everything that can be seen from spirit, by speaking words. He created the earth, the heavens, the mountains, the people, animals, trees, vegetation, etc.
- The spirit is more powerful than the matter, actually the spirit realm governs matter. The supernatural realm governs the natural realm. The invisible governs the visible. Eternity governs time.
- The main realm of operations for spirits now is the heavenly places described in Ephesians. Those heavenly places govern the earthly physical realm. What are the heavenly places?
 - Christ has the highest rank and position of authority at the right hand of God, over all the heavenly places. Christians are in Him having the same position as Christ:

Ephesians 1:20-23 (NASB)

²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**,

²¹ **far above all** rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

²² And He put **all things** in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 2:6 (NASB)

⁶ and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,

- The body of Christ is made up of Jesus – the Head, and the Church – the Body. Since has put ALL THINGS are Christ's feet and the Church is Christ's body, that means ALL THINGS have been put under the Church's feet, meaning under my feet and your feet, if you are in Christ. That is amazing!!!
- At a glance, we tend to think that heavenly places are the heaven of God or the third heaven (according to apostle Paul) where God has His throne, but if we look closer we will discover that heavenly places are a little bit different, although they include the heaven of God's throne.
- According to Ephesians 6:12, it seems that in the heavenly places dwell also the rulers, the powers, the world forces of darkness, and the spiritual forces of wickedness:

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against **the rulers**, against **the powers**, against **the world forces of this darkness**, against **the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places**.

- But we know from the Bible that the devil and the spiritual forces of wickedness don't live in the heaven of God, where God has His throne, because the devil was thrown out of heaven on the earth after he fell:

Ezekiel 28:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. **I cast you to the ground**; I put you before kings, that they may see you.

Isaiah 14:12 (NASB)

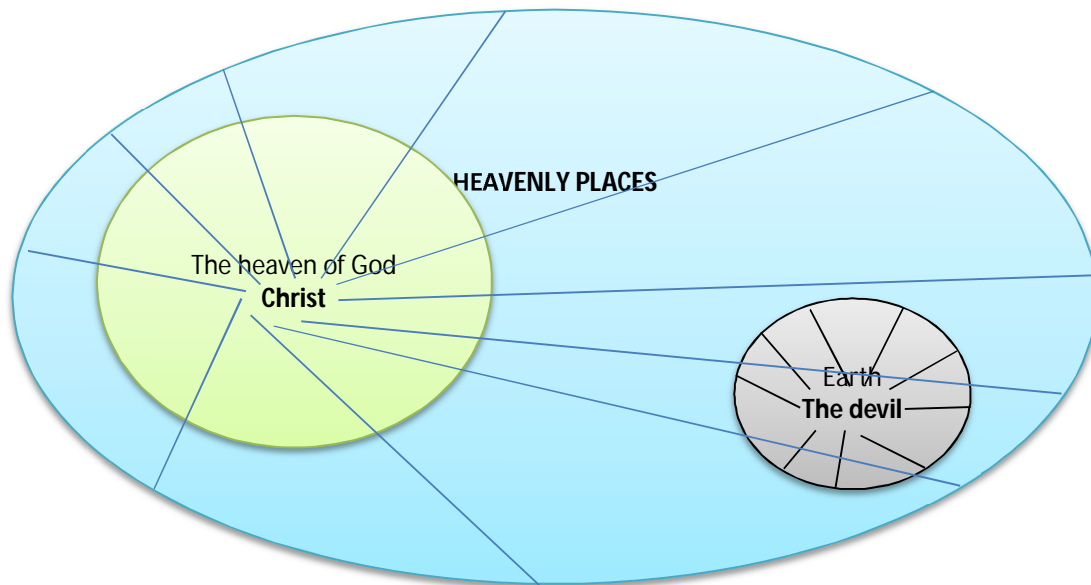
¹² "How you have **fallen from heaven**, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! **You have been cut down to the earth**, you who have weakened the nations!

Luke 10:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ And He said to them, "I was watching Satan **fall from heaven** like lightning.

- On one hand, the **devil's physical location** is **the earth**, but his sphere of operation and limited authority includes both **the earth** and **the heavenly places**. That means the earth and the heavenly places occupy a common space.

- On the other hand, **Christ's physical location** is the **heaven of God's throne**, but His sphere of operation where He has ALL authority and power includes **the heaven of God's throne**, **the earth** and **the heavenly places**. That means the heaven and God's throne and the heavenly places occupy some common space as well. But the earth and the heaven of God's throne don't share the same space.
- Finally, **the born again believers' physical location** is **the earth**, but their sphere of operation and authority is the same as Christ's, which includes for now **the earth** and **the heavenly places**.
- From all these facts, we can conclude an extraordinary truth: that while the heaven of God's throne and the earth are 2 separate physical locations, they are both included in the heavenly places together with the whole universe. That means the heavenly places embodies all the spiritual and invisible realm around us, which includes the heaven of God's throne, the universe, and the earth.



- Now we can understand better how come Christians are located both in the earth and in the heavenly places, as the right hand of God in Christ. In that invisible realm from all around us, the born again believers are known by all angels, demons, and any spiritual creatures, to be the right hand of God and have the highest authority and power in Christ Jesus.
- That doesn't mean Christians have a higher authority than God the Father Himself, or that they lord and rule over other people. They are to serve, love, and represent God to people, but to lord over darkness and destroy all the works of devil in other people's lives. The Son of God (Christ) was manifested and continues to be manifested through His church today in order to destroy the works of the devil wherever they are found:

1 John 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy the works of the devil**.

- Christians are:
 1. The sons and daughters of God
 2. The devil's masters
 3. People's servants
- The authority and power hierarchy in the heavenly places BEFORE the cross was the following:
 0. God, the Father (the overarching authority), the Word, and the Holy Spirit

1. Satan and his demons
 2. The whole world
- The authority and power hierarchy in the heavenly places AFTER the cross is the following:
 0. God, the Father (the overarching authority), the Word, and the Holy Spirit
 1. Christ (the Son of God) – who is “Jesus and the Church” together
 2. Satan and his demons
 3. The rest of the world (people that are not born again)
 - Now, if the devil, who is an evil fallen spirit, can now influence the physical things and intervene in the natural realm, how much more Christians can do that, who are superior to the devil and have the highest authority in the universe in Christ, even outside of the earth!!!
 - The devil has only some limited ability that he abuses over Christians, but no legal authority over Christians whatsoever. A thief may have some ability to break into your house, but he has no legal authority to be there and he must be cast out by any means. The same is with the devil. Christians have all authority and power in Christ over the devil. Jesus gave them that authority and He told them to tread upon all the ability of the enemy and nothing shall hurt them by any means:

Luke 10:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Behold, ***I have given you authority*** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and ***over all the power of the enemy***, and ***nothing shall hurt you***.

Conclusion

- What we learned so far is that we are spirits created by God, who have a soul and live in a physical body. Our spirits are the real us and they have a nature, that can be either life or death.
- When we were born in this world, the nature of our spirits was death (or sin or darkness), because of the sin and legacy of the first Adam, through whom death entered into this world. In other words, we were born sinners (without ever doing anything wrong), having a sinful flesh, an evil principle that was already in us, a law of sin and death that was working death from our spirits towards our souls, our bodies, and towards the outside world.
- Our souls, our will, our emotions, our speech, our mind, our beliefs became all trained to manifest death, meaning everything that God was not. Although we were still capable of doing some good things and deeds (because we still had the knowledge of good and evil), the consistent pattern was death. Our bodies were subject to sickness, to weakness, and ultimately to physical death.
- The consistent pattern of our worlds was ups and downs in every area of life and probably more downs. We were subject anytime to lack (in finances), failure (at my job), dissensions (in relationships with friends, co-workers), sickness in our bodies or in our children, arguments and strife in marriage, etc.
- After we were born again, the nature of our spirits became life in Christ and received the highest authority and power in the invisible spiritual realm, called the heavenly places. If the devil can affect the visible from the invisible, and the natural world from the supernatural one, all the more we can do that and way much more, as we have the Holy Spirit in us, the Spirit of life and the most powerful Spirit in the universe.

Memory verses

Ephesians 5:8 (NASB)

⁸ for you were formerly **darkness**, but now you are **Light** in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

John 10:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

If you have any questions from the Bible or from this teaching session, or you have a personal problem (in finances, in marriage, with children, with addictions, or with a sickness in your body, etc.) for which you need prayer, please don't hesitate to contact us at contact@eduardserediuc.org or directly from the website from the Contact section -> General Inquiry form. My wife and I will take the time to answer you and pray for you. May God bless you!