

We are a Spirit Enclosed in a Body

Derek Brown in his book¹ states that some of the innate things we as humans all have in common comes from the fact that we are made in God's image. This implies that we have some of his character which causes us to believe certain things.

"Because we are made in the image of God, each of us has within us what Wright calls 'the echoes of the Spirit'². He identifies four characteristics:

- *Longing for justice*
- *Quest for spirituality*
- *Hunger for relationships*
- *Delight in beauty"*

There are numerous other latent desires as well:

1. The desire to leave a legacy of some kind behind after we die – have a child (produce an heir), write a book, plant a tree, build a monument, paint a painting, build a dwelling, etc. [noble desires]
2. The strong desire to work on a project [work-a-holicism]
3. The search for paradise or utopia ['Eden-lost' complex]

Actually, these desires come from another source, rather than our having some likeness to God. This reason has not been obvious to us in the past due to errors in our theology.

Theology is man's quest to express our understanding of God. Because of our humanity, this is done by our natural thought processes and is very prone to misunderstanding – or rather our inability to grapple with the magnitude of God and who we are as created beings. To have accurate knowledge, what we need is for the Spirit to explain to us what we need to know³ - this is his job.

If you were to seek the Lord as to why we are predisposed to have these 'inner' longings or desires, you may find that the reason is different.

God told Jeremiah that he knew him before he was in his mother's womb⁴. This means he knew him as a spirit being before he was placed inside his mother. As God doesn't lie, we can extrapolate from this one scripture and state that we are a spirit sent from God to live inside a mortal body.

God, therefore, has sent us to Earth with jobs to do. It is this lost knowledge from our 'time' with God that our spirit is trying to implement in our lives, but can't totally do so because our flesh dominates it. How magnificent life would be as a spirit-filled Son of God who has 'killed' the 'flesh' and lives through their spirit to the full potential that they were created for – not what they were made into (viz. a human).

We must change our mindset and see ourselves as a spirit enclosed by a body, not a spirit living inside a body. This change of attitude will revolutionise how we live our lives and seek our destiny.

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1 - Derek Brown (2012) "THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE: Rediscovering the Kingdom", p:36 (e-book)

2 - N. T. Wright, (1966) "Simply Christian", Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Part 1.

3 - John 14:26

4 - Jeremiah 1:5