



Christian School Insights

Spirit-Directed Education: Part 1

Dr. Dennis Demuth

The major focus of public education is centered on educating the mind and body. Very little attention is given to educating the spirit. Most Christian schools approach the educational process very similar to public schools. In addition, they add Bible as a subject, and many present a curriculum based on a biblical worldview, including the use of textbooks published by Christian publishers such as Bob Jones University Press and ABeka Books. They may have chapel services during the week and even add praise and worship as part of the classroom experience. However, very few Christian schools have as their focus educating the spirit of a student.

The foundation of Spirit-Directed Education

We base the foundation of a Spirit-Directed education on who man really is; he is a spirit-being that occupies an earth suit known as the body. When man was created, he was made in the likeness and image of God. Man's purpose was to glorify God, to experience all of God's love, all of His resources, and to have all of his needs met. Through the creation, God was able to reveal himself to man. God's image and likeness were expressed in man, through the creation and seen in God's conduct. Man was placed in a position to have authority and dominion over the laws of nature. Man was seen as God's companion and ruler. Man's intellectual abilities were such that he could readily understand the things that his creator God had placed at his disposal.

Walking and talking with God were a natural activity. Through his spirit, man comprehended the

fullness of God. It was man's spirit that provided the direct link with God. Man's spirit dominated his mind and body. It was through his spirit that man received the wisdom of God. His mind, body, and spirit were in harmony (Kenyon, 1970).

The Entrance of Sin

The entrance of sin resulted in corruption of man's position. The fellowship connection was broken and God's image and likeness were corrupted. Sin separated God from man. As a result, man became blinded to the attributes of God. He could no longer receive the things of the Spirit of God. I Cor. 2:14 says, "*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.*"

Man became ruled by his natural senses allowing his mind and body to dominate his spirit. Man was left with reliance upon sense knowledge; he had to rely on human wisdom because God's wisdom was blocked. "*Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, the Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain*" (I Cor. 3:18 20).

In his fallen condition, man could no longer receive the revelation knowledge of God. Revelation means nothing to the man of sense knowledge, it is like a noisy radio meaning nothing to a deaf person. With the loss of revelation knowledge, natural man only sees the things of God as foolishness. Revelation

knowledge is the foundation of miracles, creative faith, saving faith, righteousness, dominion, and the very wisdom of God. Revelation knowledge is the only way man can apprehend truth.

The Plan of Redemption

Through the plan of redemption all that God intended for man that was lost, was restored. When a person accepts Christ, a transformation takes place; he is recreated in the image and likeness of God. He receives the very life of God and becomes a partaker of His divine nature. *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* [2 Peter 1:4].

In becoming a new person, he is at once equipped with a new nature. It is not just a repair job; he becomes a new creation. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* [II Cor. 5:17] Man was given a new heart, a new spirit. *"And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh"* [Eze. 11:19]. The old man was put off and a new man was put on being renewed unto knowledge after the image of Him that created him. *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him"* [Col. 3: 9 10].

The Result of Redemption

Man could once again receive the life and nature of God. The revelation of the Word of God can once again be revealed to man, as well as God revealing Himself to man. God also comes to dwell in man. *"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people"* [II Cor. 6:16]. And man became the very temple of the Holy Spirit. *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"*[I Cor. 3:13]

When a person is born again, he receives a new dimension for learning and behaving. With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the human

conscience is replaced by the voice of the recreated spirit. Through the recreated spirit, the Holy Spirit transmits the wisdom of God *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"*[I Cor. 1:30], the thoughts of God *"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God"* [I Cor. 2:10], and directs and forbids actions *"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them"* [Acts 13:2]. And again in Acts 16:7 we read, *"After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not."*

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Education

The Spirit of God leads into all truth. *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come"* [John 16:13]. Thus, as the Holy Spirit is released in the student, the Holy Spirit begins to appeal to the student's will. The more the student submits his will to the Holy Spirit, the more the student will manifest the personality of Jesus being conformed to his image and likeness. As the student learns to walk by the spirit, he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh, that is the old nature *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh"* [Gal. 5:16].

It is nothing more than a matter of the degree of surrender. The greater the degree of self surrender, the more the student will move toward Godliness. As the Holy Spirit is given right of way, He begins to renew and dominate the mind *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* [Rom. 12:2].

The way the student begins to think in his heart (spirit) is the way he becomes *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. . ."* [Pro. 23:7] The mind and the will begin to be in harmony and unity with the recreated spirit. When the mind (thinking) gets lined with the spirit, the body is brought into subjection; the renewed mind is brought into subjection to the spirit.