

## Chapter Four

### **An Illustration of Spiritual Death:**

We mentioned spiritual death earlier in this chapter—now let's take a closer look at how this occurred. Man's spirit was originally in union with God's Spirit while he was in the Garden of Eden. The harmony between God and man became estranged at the instant of man's disobedience.

Only when Adam disobeyed God's command did he obtain the knowledge of good and evil. Then were his eyes open, and they both knew they were naked. It was the sin that produced spiritual death in man, not the knowledge of good and evil. After they sinned, they acquired the knowledge. To illustrate what transpired at the time of this spiritual death, let's consider the following:

### ***The Wire and the Switch:***

The Power Company sends electricity into our homes by way of electric wires. These wires connect to wires laced throughout the home. The electricity in the wires provides power to lights and receptacles controlled by switches. If the light switch is in the "off" position, the power is still available at the top of the switch. Yet, the light will not light until the switch is in the "on" position.

Likewise, we want to picture Adam being formed from the dust of the ground. Imagine a certain length of electrical wire placed inside him from his head to his heart. Again, envision in the middle of this wire a switch. At the very creation of man the switch was in the "on" position. When God breathed the breath of life into man's nostrils, the Spirit of God surged through the wire and switch into the heart of man. The spirit of man was in direct contact with the Spirit of God. The power radiated by the Spirit of God brought Life into the spirit of man, which in turn, released life into man's soul.

In contrast—at the fall, and even to this day, that switch is still in the “off” position because of disobedience to God’s command. In spite of this, the Spirit of God resides in the head part of man, but cannot reach the heart because the switch remains in the “off” position.

We must make one thing clear. Although we used the term “spiritual death,” it was not the spirit of man that died; it was the soul. The spirit is that part that belongs to God and returns to Him at death. The soul is the real person living inside the body and belongs to each individual. It will follow him eternally to the place that he determines on earth as the place where he wants to spend eternity after his physical death.

#### **Man is Unable to Free Himself:**

The consequence caused by man’s disobedience is without recourse. The sentence of death continues without expectation of parole. Man is helpless to work his way free, and no matter how good he tries to be, he is powerless to free himself. Sin cannot enter into heaven. God cannot look upon iniquity, and neither can He look upon the contaminated blood of man.

Nothing man attempts to do will free him from this predicament. Jesus said, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing...” John 6:63. Life is in the spirit, but only when that spirit is connected to God’s Spirit. Just as man’s disobedience brought about spiritual death, so also man’s obedience to Satan’s deception brought man under Satan’s rule and ultimately he obtained Satan’s fate.

#### **Man Was Made in God’s Image:**

The Scripture passages relating to the body, soul, and spirit of man were randomly selected. There were many other related passages we could have acknowledged, but these will give us a reasonable view of the whole man. Along these lines, and from this framework, we want to gather a little more insight into the similarities of God and man.