

Spiritual, Natural, and Physical Realms

These words actually refer to three different dimensions (realms, worlds, planes existence) overlaid one upon the other, yet separated one from the other by barriers which God has put in place. The greatest or highest of these dimensions is the spiritual realm, or the heavenlies, where God dwells. It must be understood that God, being the sovereign ruler over all, can and does intervene in the other dimensions (worlds, planes of existence) as it pleases him in order to accomplish his holy purpose.

The next highest dimension, or world, is the natural realm, as it has come to be known. It is not a material or physical plane of existence, yet it is closely tied to and greatly influences the physical realm. As we have said before, God has placed barriers between the different realms. Men have at times crossed over into the natural realm by way of their spirits (astro-travel), often with disastrous and sometimes deadly results.

D.G. Hunt in one of his lectures defines the word “natural” in two ways. One definition shows the word “natural” to mean “the normal occurrence of events in a given situation or realm.” The other definition of the word “natural” is “illegitimate.” This second definition of the word “natural” is the one we have been using to identify this next highest plane of existence, or the natural realm. As has already been shown, Lucifer, God’s chief angel, was given this next highest dimension as his dwelling place and kingdom. It was expected that Lucifer would desire spiritual things, or the things of the spiritual realm, in order to be promoted to be like God, who is holy. At the first, there was nothing illegitimate about Lucifer’s plane of existence. He and his kingdom were sanctified to be able to serve God. Lucifer’s kingdom fell to the “natural” or “illegitimate” level when he desired unlawfully to be God, and to take God’s throne and kingdom.

The illegitimacy of Lucifer’s kingdom is really in relation to that which God is and that which God had purposed for Lucifer before Lucifer’s fall. Lucifer by his fall became the devil and his kingdom became illegitimate, or natural.

The physical realm came about as a result of the fall of Lucifer and his kingdom. This realm is a dimension of light, matter, and energy. It is timebound, aged, and decaying. The corruption in the physical realm mirrors the corruption of the natural realm. The strong influence of the natural realm on the physical plane of existence can be clearly seen by way of the destructive nature of man.

Man himself is a demonstration of the three realms. He is spirit (highest realm where God dwells), soul (natural realm), and body (physical realm). God calls on man to turn from the strong influences of the natural realm (the soul) to allow God to control him in love from the spiritual realm. This is accomplished by man’s receiving in his (man’s) spirit from God’s spirit.

Body, Soul, and Spirit

The makeup of man in descending order of importance of his component parts is spirit, then soul, and then body. The outward, physical component of man, the body, or temple as it is sometimes called, is easily recognizable and has been expertly and extensively studied and categorized.

That the body at times is called a “temple” is recognition of the fact that it houses the deeper more complex components of man – the spirit and the soul. It is by way of these two entities that a man is animated, cognitive, and vivacious, and even able to know concerning God. Though both are spirits and both nonmaterial, they are markedly different entities.

Confusion as regards these two entities is rampant, as religious men and scientists alike define the soul as the spirit. Only the word of God can make the division between the soul and the spirit, so that the two can be seen with clarity (Hebrews 4:12-13).

Genesis, Chapter 2, verse 7 of the bible, speaking of the creation of man shows God breathing life into, or “spiriting” man, but it goes on further to speak of man becoming a “living soul.” The “breath” of God then, is the spirit of man. This breath is not material or natural, but spirit even as God is a spirit, and only brings forth of Godkind. Next, we see man becoming “a living soul.” What happened here was that the spirit being the very image of God, brought forth another spirit – a lesser spirit- called the soul. At this point, it was “a living soul,” or a soul that was sanctified unto God like unto the one that brought it forth. This “living soul” had been brought forth as a house for the spirit to reside in within the man which had been formed by God from the dust of the ground.

It was when man sinned and ate of the tree which he had been commanded by God not to eat of that the spirit and the soul became two entities which are to this day at war one with the other. The soul heard from and obeyed one other than the spirit. Up until that time, the soul had been receiving life from the spirit within. The spirit within had been receiving life (spiritual life) from the tree of life and in turn feeding the soul life, or spiritual things of God. The spirit, being the leading entity, was held responsible for the soul’s rebellion and died a spiritual death, which was separation from God. The soul then became a “dead soul,” falling to the natural level, illegitimate as far as the things (spiritual) of God are concerned, unable even to know God.

To this day, the soul leads man in natural things, seeking even to convince man that it (the soul) is the spirit, and even that it (the soul) is God. God is working ever to get man to look to Him (God) that God might re-energize the spirit that lies deep within the man in a dormant state, as one dead, to the end that the spirit in man might take its rightful place as ruler within the man.