

THE THIRD DIMENSION

TEXT:

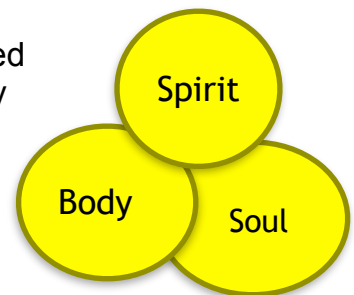
2 Kings 5:1: Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

We are living in the greatest civilization the world has ever known. There are more people living today than have lived and died in all the years since Adam and Eve. If every person who had ever lived should come out of the grave and stand upon the face of the earth today, their number would not equal today's population.

With this fact comes the great burden and responsibility of the Church and of people of faith for the souls of men! This responsibility is greater in this one generation than in all the combined generations of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of Peter, Paul, James, and John, of Luther, Finney, and all the other men of God. The combined responsibility of all these men of the past — for the souls of men — cannot compare to the responsibility of this present generation. And, at this moment, our world is far from the point God would want us to be. There is a reason!

First of all, man is mental, but he is not all mind. Man is physical, but he is not all physical. Man is spiritual, with a soul, but he is not all spiritual. He is a composite of mind, body, and soul — mental, physical, and spiritual!

Man has attained great heights mentally and has progressed a long way in the physical being, but he has failed — utterly failed — in the moral fiber of the spiritual man. That's what I want to talk about — this **THIRD DIMENSION**.



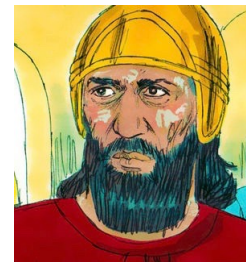
Go back in your imagination many hundreds of years. You will see city streets all lined with excited people. It looks like a great parade is about to take place, and everyone is eagerly waiting. Suddenly, it happens — the king's chariot appears. Everyone stands in order to see because the king is just returning from having gone out to meet the great general, Naaman, who has just won another war, another victory! Leading the great parade in the first chariot is the king; in the second chariot is Naaman. Following are his soldiers, his warriors, prisoners, and spoils of war.

As they enter the city, everyone cries out, “Naaman, the great general! Naaman, the great warrior!” His name is on the lips of all the people. It was said that he was an honorable man, a great man, and many wars were won by him.

Naaman had not only military power, but political power as well. He was second unto the king in politics. He also had great social power because of his military and political position. Everyone knew the name of Naaman. “*There he is. There’s his wife. There’s his family!*”

In addition, Naaman was a man of great financial power. He had a beautiful home with palatial gardens and servants, and the ruins and spoils of war dotted his house and lands.

And so, here he is — a great man! But, one day this great man of valor had a little sore appear under his skin, a little white sore which wouldn’t go away. It became infected and grew worse. It got into his blood stream, on his other hand, and on his whole body. Finally, the flesh was falling from the bone. Naaman was a great man, a man of valor . . . BUT, he was a leper.



Do you know that Naaman would have given his military power, his social power, his political power, all of his wealth, and would have moved out of his palace if he could have just been cleansed of leprosy. He was watching himself die, bit by bit.

**Leprosy
is a type
of sin.**

Leprosy is a type of sin. The little evil thought that is entertained becomes an evil deed. An evil deed becomes a sin. And sin separates a man from God. The social drink that finally leads to a drunkard’s grave, these habits, sins, and evil thoughts come into our lives and steal, destroy, and separate us from God and His Kingdom. Sin and satan have come to kill, to steal, and to destroy.

John 10:10: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Truly, today we enjoy the greatest society and the greatest civilization with all its inventions, conveniences, and possibilities. **Yet, there is one thing wrong with the human race. We are sinners!** We have failed in the moral fiber.

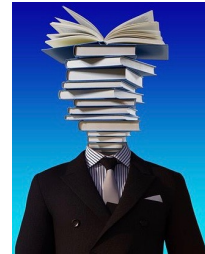
Let’s look at our present civilization for a moment. In the last hundred years, what has happened? In 1880 there was no electricity in America, and there were no automobiles. I can remember, just in my lifetime, when there was no atomic or hydrogen power, no television sets or jet airplanes, no radios or electric washers. Now, man has all of these conveniences and inventions. In fact, we have progressed mentally until we can calculate and can send a man all the way to the moon.

I never thought I would live to see the day that somebody would be walking on the moon, and that — via television — I would be watching him walk and hearing him talk a quarter of a million miles away!



But man was smart enough not only to get out there, but smart enough to come back — all the way to the moon, then back here to the earth. But when he gets back, he can't get along with his fellow man. He doesn't know how to live. That's how smart he is!

I believe in education. I wish I had more. I think people should learn, and that we should have libraries and schools. We should try to feed our minds and learn. But let me tell you something. If we are only mental — without the moral — or if we have a weak body, we are in trouble. We must balance ourselves. There are enough college professors in San Quentin prison to staff a whole university. They have Ph.D.'s, D.D.'s and all kind of degrees, but something went wrong!



Down in Arkansas, we used to have an “old boy” . . . he was rather poor and uneducated. He would slip out at night, get into the chicken coop, and steal chickens.

He finally graduated from high school and went on down to Little Rock and got himself a college education. He came back, got into politics, and stole the county treasury. When he was uneducated, he stole chickens; but when he got his education, ran for office, and was elected county treasurer, he stole the treasury! The difference was in education. Let me tell you, if I had my “druthers”, I would rather be in Heaven learning my ABCs than to be in Hell praying in Greek and Latin for water to cool my tongue.

You can be smart — as smart as the devil — and still miss Heaven.

And as I talk about education, if there are teachers and educators, I say, “God bless you. You have a gigantic task!” But I want to tell all of you something. You can be smart — as smart as the devil — and still miss Heaven. And the devil IS smart.

So, mentally, we have come a long way; we all know that! And, we have also come a long way physically. I am so grateful to medical science. If I were to fall and break my arm, I would find the best bone specialist in town. I would say, “Doc, put those bones back in place”.

I would go to him because he has the know-how. Then I'd say, “Lord, make them mend”. A doctor can cut us open, but it takes God to make us grow back. I am grateful to the doctors, the nurses, and the hospitals for what they have done and for what they are capable of doing, but we still depend on ONE, and that ONE is the Lord!

I am glad we have made such progress in medical science. The tiny babies who are born and must live for awhile in incubators would die without this know-how. They can now grow into adulthood because of medical science.

So, men are mental and physical, but more than that, men are also spiritual. And here is where we fall!

This is why we have so many divorces.

This is why we have juvenile delinquents.

This is why we have alcoholics.

This is why we have hatred and strife, wars and trouble.

Man's heart — the spiritual part of man — is not right. I want to talk about this.

We can't educate a man into the Kingdom of God. We can't educate a man and make him right. He will be right only when he receives the Spirit of God. And I am old-fashioned enough to believe the Bible — that God made man, breathed into him, and man became a living soul. I believe it. I don't believe he came from a monkey, though men are really making monkeys of themselves. I am simple enough to believe that God created man and placed him in the Garden of Eden. God gave him rules and regulations by which to live, but Adam broke God's law. He was driven from the Garden, and thus, lost the fellowship of God.

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We are a fallen race, according to the Scriptures; we are born with a sin nature. Every one of us has sinned, and every one of us needs a Saviour.

Now, the Bible says that a woman that liveth in [immoral] pleasure is dead while she is alive.

1 Timothy 5:6: But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

**Every one of us
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What that means is that she lives in sin and transgresses God's laws. She may be a Hollywood star. She may be somebody outstanding in the community, but if she has sin in her life, then she is DEAD as far as spiritual things are concerned.

Man is dead until he has the Spirit of God within him. If the Spirit would go out of my body today, I would have a tongue, but it wouldn't talk; my ears wouldn't hear; my eyes wouldn't see; my feet wouldn't walk; and my hands wouldn't move, because the body without the spirit is dead.

The human race literally is dead until it has the Spirit of God, for spiritual things

are spiritually understood.

Young people talk about being “turned on” by drugs. I have news for them. They don’t know what “turned on” is until they have the Spirit of God come in and really “turn them on”.



Mentally, we can memorize every verse in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but without the Spirit, we cannot understand God, the Kingdom of God, and the things of God. “The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.”

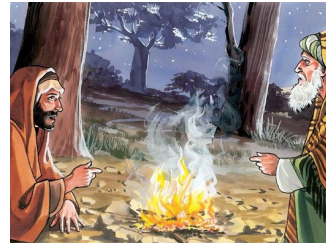
2 Corinthians 3:6: Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

Let us recall the incident, in:

John 3:1-7:

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a Ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that Thou art a Teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with Him.



3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

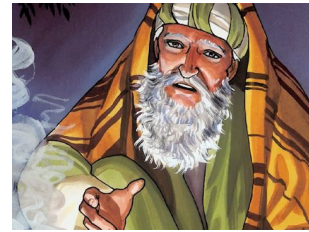
6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

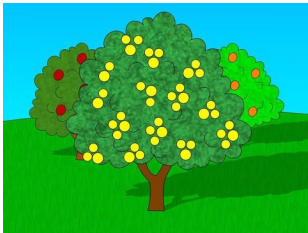
Concerning Nicodemus, he was a very religious man (probably more so than most of us), a religious leader who fasted two days each week. He gave ten percent of everything he had, and even gave extra alms and offerings to help the poor, the elderly, the widows, and the orphans. He kept every holy day, was present at every such service, marched in the processional and recessional, and wore the correct robes. Physically and mentally, Nicodemus was a pillar of religion. But he was not “turned on” in the THIRD DIMENSION —spiritually.

Nicodemus came to Jesus asking about spiritual things, and Jesus told him, "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!" Nicodemus used only his head and body when he asked:

John 3:4: Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?



This is the greatest story ever told. The Bible says that God made man and placed him in the Garden of Eden. God came in the cool of the day and communed with Adam and Eve. God gave them a law . . ."



Genesis 2:16-17:

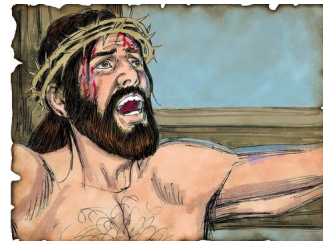
16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the Garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

They disobeyed, were driven from the Garden, and lost God's Spirit and His fellowship.

All of the Old Testament told about a Saviour, and man's being reconciled back to God. Jesus, God's Only Begotten Son, came into this world. He was virgin born. Mary gave Him a body, and God was His Father. The body comes from the mother, and the blood comes from the father. So, Jesus' Blood was from God and was sinless. Jesus proved Himself to be God manifest in the flesh. He opened blind eyes, He cast out evil spirits. He broke the loaves and fishes to feed the multitude, He raised the dead. Then, He carried a cross to Calvary and fulfilled the Scripture:

1 Peter 2:24: Who His Own Self bare our sins in His Own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.



He died for you and me. Now, we have the opportunity to accept God's plan of salvation.

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

When we accept Him as our Lord and Savior, God takes us out of the fallen and

sinful family of Adam, and we become “born again” spiritually. We are “turned on” in the Third Dimension.

Then, as the Bible says the things we once loved we now hate. So, if you used to hang out at the bar and thought you were having a good time, after you are *born again* you wouldn't go there or hang out with that crowd if they paid you a million dollars. You love something else. This “new life” will make you go home and clean out your refrigerator and pour some of that “stuff” down the drain. It will make you pay up your debts. And the Bible says it will make you cleanse yourself from all filthiness of the flesh AND spirit.

I know some people whom you couldn't get to smoke, drink, lie, or steal, but their spirit is terrible — they will cut down their neighbor something awful, with their tongues. The Apostle Paul exhorts us:

2 Corinthians 7:1: Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

So, when a man is “born again,” old things pass away, and behold all things become new. If you join the church but old things have not passed away, then you haven't been *born again*. You have turned over a new leaf, but a man must be “born again” — turned on spiritually to understand the spiritual things of God.

So, we of the human race have come a long way physically, and we have come a long way mentally, and thank God we have! Now, if we could only bring this spiritual man up and progress as much as we have mentally and physically, we would have the greatest moral awakening the world has ever known or heard. Homes would be what they should be, the Church would be what it should be, and God's Kingdom would receive honor and glory.

The law of gravity has been here ever since we have. It was here when Adam and Eve were here. It is a bit old-fashioned, old-fogey, and kind of out-of-date today, I would guess. But still, we thank God for gravity, for it holds us to the earth and keeps us from floating off into space. That little apple up there comes down to us . . . it doesn't float away. So gravity is a real blessing — the third dimension.



But, I tell you, you get you a college education, progress mentally, and get “smart”. You keep your physical body strong and fit. Then, you step out and say, “I have a good education, I have a physical body that is strong and firm, and I am now not an old-fogey. I am not bound by those old-fashioned rules and regulations, like gravity, and I am going to prove it to everybody!” Then why don't you climb up on the front of an auditorium or building and just jump out into space? Defy that old-fashioned law, and see what happens! That law which has been blessing you will let you go

SMACK against the earth. The thing that has been blessing you will curse you, if you disobey it.

The thing that has been blessing you will curse you, if you disobey it.

The businessman strives and makes his big fortune, but he doesn't know what he is looking for . . . he is not happy. The man who works real hard . . . he is not happy. Homes are not happy.

The revolution that everybody wants and the way of life that everyone wants is so simple that we all just stagger right over it. Here it is!

Everybody really wants to be “turned on” spiritually, but few ever realize this. Deep inside every person is a desire to understand the things of God and know that the commandments of God are for man's benefit, not for God. If we will keep His laws and commandments, they will bless us and our families. Our communities, our society, and our world will be happy. We will all be happy! But, if we disobey them — just as if we were to disobey gravity — there is a curse. What a city this would be if everyone would keep these simple commandments and laws — the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the teachings of Jesus!

If we will keep His laws and commandments, they will bless us and our families.

***“Thou shalt not lie”.* Wouldn't this be a wonderful community if no one lied?**

***“Thou shalt not steal”.* We could dismiss most of our police force, and our jails would be empty if people wouldn't steal.**

***“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”* We wouldn't have these divorce courts, and there wouldn't be so many little boys and girls suffering, and families being broken up if we would keep that commandment.**

“Thou shalt not bear false witness.”

***“Honor thy father and thy mother.”* And dads and mothers should live so their children CAN honor them. It works two ways.**

***“Thou shalt not covet.”* We would be happy with what we have.**

These are the laws of God by which He told us to live. When we do not live by these commandments — just like defying the law of gravity — we are in trouble. Defy God's laws, and we are in trouble! And that is what's wrong with our human race!

Defy God's laws, and we are in trouble!

We need to get back and have a moral and spiritual awakening — to “turn on” and

realize, “These are God’s laws: let’s keep them!”

“Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things will be added unto you.”

Love your neighbor as yourself.”

That is the revolution the world is wanting.

Not everyone will accept it. But you can have it. And, when you do — when you keep His laws and commandments — when you are “born again” and “turned on” spiritually, brother, you are living in another world! There is no one like a real, born again, Spirit-filled Christian. No one!

Use your brains, take care of your bodies, and be “turned on” spiritually.

Now how did Naaman get well? The same way we can get “turned on” spiritually. Three steps! Naaman acknowledged he was a leper. The flesh was falling from his bones. His wife knew he was a leper. The little maid knew he was a leper. Our first step in “turning on” spiritually is to acknowledge that we have sinned. We will never get a thing from God until we know our need. Our self-righteousness is as filthy rags when we become born again. Only Christ can give us his Spirit. That’s number one. Naaman acknowledged he was a leper.

Our first step in “turning on” spiritually is to acknowledge that we have sinned.

Second, Naaman went to the source of his help. We must go to the Source of our help, which is to Calvary. Receive Christ, and receive His Spirit!

As Naaman went down, he got side-tracked like a lot of people do — with doctrines, issues, and schisms, churches, and denominations. Don’t get side-tracked. Go back to Calvary and to Jesus.

Naaman went to the king of Israel. The king got mad and said, “*You are trying to declare war!*”

2 Kings 5:4-7:

4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my

servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.



Then he went on down to the prophet's house, and the prophet knew he was a high, haughty, rich man, used to getting whatever he wanted. As a result, he had to be cut down a little bit.

When we come to Calvary, we can't come with social pull, political pull, financial pull. We just have to come like everybody else. We have ALL sinned.



The prophet of the Lord knew this, and so he sent his servant out and said, *“Naaman, do you want to get well? The prophet of the Lord said for you to go down and dip in the Jordan River seven times and you will get well.”* Naaman got mad, and went into a rage. He said, *“Who does he think he is? He didn't come out to salute me, or bow down to me. Tell me to go down and get in that old muddy water! Why, the waters back up in Syria are clear rivers. I will go back up there and wash.”*

But, I want to tell you something. We must come only in God's way, and if we don't come God's way, we won't get God's answer.

Naaman tried to go another way. He got in a chariot and started home. A little buck private got up and said, *“Your honor, I am your servant. And when you say to me,*



‘Come,’ I come. And when you say, ‘Go,’ I go. You give me orders, and now when God is giving you orders, you won't obey.” Naaman saw his



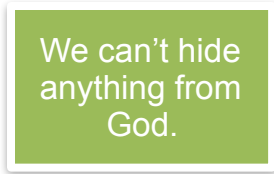
folly, and he went down to the Jordan River. Naaman dipped five times, but God had said seven times. Had he not dipped seven times, he would not have been healed.

If we are not willing to clean out our refrigerators, clean up our ungodly lives, and give up our sins and habits and the things we are doing and saying, we won't get healed or set free, either. We have to “come clean” with God.

People come to the altar here, and they bounce down on one knee, and bounce

back up and say, “I’m a Christian”. I’ve got news for them. Until they “come clean” with God and give up their sins, and turn from their evil ways, only then will they have a real, spiritual birth.

We have to go “all the way”. The Lord knows the thoughts that are going through our minds. He knows every deed and every act of our lives. When we deal with Him, brother, He knows all! We can’t hide anything from God. We can join a church and fool the preacher, but it is not the preacher we are going to meet in judgment . . . it is the Lord.



We can't hide anything from God.

Now, we don't have a bunch of angels at our church. I thank God we have people who need something and are searching for it. If there is anything they should do, it is go to church so they can hear the Word of God.

Naaman didn't go down five times then go away and say, “It's not as good as he said.” He went all the way! And, when he came up the seventh time, old things had passed away, and behold, all things had become new. His leprosy was gone! He had the flesh of a baby. He said, “Look, God made me well!” He told everyone.

Mark 16:16: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

When we repent and are baptized and “turn on” spiritually in the Third Dimension, we know it! The fellows at the shop know it. We don't have to put up a big sign which says, “I'm a Christian”. We just act like Christians, because we have become Christ followers! Christ our LORD is the Image we want to reflect.

“YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.” You must “turn on” spiritually!

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