

"FALLEN - Life Away from the Presence of God"

The Ministry of the Spirit

March 15, 2026

...To understand "our story" is to first use God's story to interpret our story!

...Last week - "God's Design" - **the Spirit "hovering", dirt + breath human beings, Eden, Earth, and the priesthood of man (the imaging of God)**

Separation

Gen 3:20-24 ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

...Gen 3 is rightly one of the most famous chapters in the Bible. It is "THE FALL" chapter!

- There is the Introduction of a hostile Spiritual Being
- There is the Introduction to a powerful force called "Deception" ("Temptation")
- There is the Introduction of SIN!

>> **Satan + Temptation + Sin = a Powerful Existence Changing World!** ...These are Daily & Big Factors!

- There is JUDGMENT! ...God has taken up a "punitive posture" toward sin and man's REBELLION/REJECTION of His Righteous Rule!

Is 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; ² but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

DAVID knew his sin impacted the "nearness of God"

Psalms 51:1-11 ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

... ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

2 Thess 1:6-10 ⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

-- There is SEPARATION from the Presence of God! ...Gen 3:23-24

Gen 4 ... Life Away from the Presence of God!

...The first story told about an "away from the presence of the Lord" existence is the story of Cain & Abel. [Gen 4:16 *Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.*].

...v. 1 (and 3:23) ...there is still something of the "Creation Mandate" that continues! ...they are being "fruitful and multiplying... and working the earth".

...v. 3-5 ...man is mindful of God's Lordship/Ownership

...v. 5-7 ...Intro to the Human Soul—"Away from the Presence of God"!!

- Very Angry!
- Face is Fallen! (Description of man's "withdrawal" or "emotional overload" ...some sort of unhappy circuit overload!

?? - How Does Our 3 Preceding Chapters of Human History & Human Psychology help us Understand this "Unhappy Circuit Overload?"

...Humans (dirt + breath) NEED the Presence of God in order to Properly Interact with Creation/Existence!

... We weren't Designed to do Earth via "The Tree of Knowledge"!!

...Intro to the MOST PROBING QUESTION—"WHY"??

Notice Where "the Action" is Located by God's Piercing Question: "WHY... is a MOITIVE Question!!" ...Why has to do with Our Inner Passions, Desires, Hopes, Dreams, Longings, etc.!!

"Philosophers and theologians have, for ages, explored the simple question of why people do what they do... our own experience is an obscurity to us. What is a person doing by living, breathing, experiencing this world? We can feel something so strongly at one time, only to find that feeling gone a moment later. We know what it is to give full mental assent to the truth of something, but act as if it did not matter. We can recognize that we should not desire a certain object, but go on wanting it anyway. We can simultaneously disapprove of our actions, yet continue to carry them out. Our interpretation of a situation can change with a simple word from someone else, then shift back again when we are alone. We are a mystery to ourselves. ...but we are not a mystery to God. ...God designed people with dynamic hearts to experience the world fully only when connected to Christ." **Jeremy Pierre**, "The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life", p. 2

...The "ingredients" of Dirt + Breath + Earth—NEEDS the Interactive Presence of God (ie, the Ministry of the Spirit)!!

v. 7 ...Welcome to the Fallen-Version World!!

- **Meet ...Personal Performance!** ... "If you do well"

?? – What is going to be your "remedy" for "not doing well"??

- **Meet ...the Haunting Concept of "ACCEPTANCE"**

?? – What is going to be your "remedy" for "rejection" and the feelings of "not being accepted"??

- **Meet ...Sin!** ...Not some dead "moral line-in-the-sand" that just sits there waiting to see if you'll break the Speed Limit or lie on your taxes! ...No, this "sin" is more like an "ACTIVE PREDATOR"!!

?? – What are you going to do with the "Live-Rattle Snake-Version" of SIN?

- **Meet ...The Impossible Task!!** ...v. 7 "...you must rule over it"

?? – What are you going to do to "rule over sin"???

N.T. Insights!! ...Romans

Rom 6:16 ...slaves of sin (under sin's 'ownership, mastery, control')

Rom 7:5, 8 ...sin is at work in us "arousing sinful passions", "seizing an opportunity", "producing all kinds of covetousness" ...This is rather sobering!--I'm not the one who is "arousing, seizing, and producing" this stuff in me--SIN IS!! It is its own force with its own strategy!!

Rom 7:14-15 "...I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." ...When did this "sale" take place? (Gen 3!!)

Rom 7:18 ...Man has some degree of desire--but NOT the ability to carry it out!!

Rom 7:19-21, 23-24

What's This Got to do with The Ministry of the Spirit?

Rom 8:1-9 ...That which was lost in Gen 3 has found a NEW DAY ...the Age of the Spirit! We are No Longer "Away from the Presence of God"!!

Rom 8:13-14 ...Hey Cain! I've got some really good news! ...THIS is how you "Rule Over Sin"!!

We Live in a World that has POWERFUL FORCES in It!! ...Forces of sin/corruption ...Spiritual Beings ...Temptation forces ...Enslaving Forces ...Confusion Forces!

...We were meant to need and engage meaningful exchanges with the Presence of God (the Ministry of the Spirit).