

SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD Tuesday, July 11, 2023 Scripture: Genesis1:26-27 / Romans 3:10-12 TITLE: Unlike Any Other

It was once said, "We don't have a soul. We are a soul. We happen to have a body." What a unique perspective on mankind. But it's right. Our bodies fail us. Our bodies grow old and return to the earth. But our souls are eternal. They never die. Our souls explain why we are spiritual. This is why we're fascinated with the concepts of spirits, ghosts, and angels. This is why we look for a higher power. It's why we look for ways to connect with God. But unfortunately, many of us are looking for that relationship in all the wrong places.

So how do we know we have a soul? What does being spiritual mean?

Let's go back to the Bible to answer these questions.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT) says,

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them.

When you read the Creation account in Genesis 1-2, you see that mankind is in a class of its own. God spoke the universe, the world, and living creatures into existence. At the end of each Creation day, he said, "It was good." But then God does something different with mankind. God wants to make mankind in His own image.

What does that mean? Well, we don't have time to fully unpack that, but God is Spirit. God is the Eternal Spirit. God is the Eternal, Personal Spirit. And God wanted to have an everlasting personal relationship with us. The trees don't have this. The stars don't have this. I hate to disappoint some of you, but our cats and dogs don't have that either—just mankind. We are a spirit – a soul that lives on after the grave. And God wants us to have a relationship with each other, but more importantly, with Him.

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sinned. They didn't trust God, so they sinned. They broke the relationship with God, and it has messed up all since. This is why we have so many religions. This is why we have so many spiritual paths that lead to nowhere but disappointment. We are trying to play God. But we aren't looking for God.

Romans 3:10-12 says,

No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.

Friend, we are spiritual. We are a soul. But we are broken and in need of help. Thankfully, though we aren't looking for God, God went looking for us. And through God's Son, Jesus, we have a way back to God.

Today, my challenge is to go and share this Good News with a friend, coworker, or someone you know who is far from God. They aren't looking for Him, no matter how spiritual they are. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and He's asking you to bring them this message.

So today, connect with the lost, and share the hope of Christ with your friends and family.

God loves you. Let's go win the day.