



CHAPTER 3

Spirit-Conscious

*... I pray God your whole spirit and soul and
body be preserved blameless.*

—1 Thessalonians 5:23

In this scriptural passage, Paul begins with the inside, the innermost part of man, the heart of his being, which is his spirit, and comes to the outside.

Yet most people misquote this verse. They say, “body, soul, and spirit.” Why do they put the body first? Because they are more body-conscious than spirit-conscious. Natural things mean more to them than spiritual things. So they put physical things first.

Sometimes we are more mental-conscious because we live more in the mental realm.

But man is a spirit being. We need to be spirit-conscious. Spiritual things will become more real to us the more spirit-conscious we become.

If we are going to be led by the Spirit of God, we must become more spirit-conscious, or we'll miss out on the whole thing. God's Spirit leads us through our spirits.

Put spirit first. Become more spirit-conscious, more conscious of the inward man. Realize that you are a spirit being and that you became a new creation re-created by God in Christ Jesus. It will help you grow—*spiritually*.

Many years ago I began to think like this, and at first I would say it to myself out loud: *I am a spirit being. I have a soul. And I live in a body.*

Saying that helped me become more spirit-conscious. It helped my faith, because faith is of the spirit, or the heart.