

# Natural Solutions to Spiritual Problems

**1 Corinthians 15:45-46, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, Romans 12:2; Proverbs 2:10-11, Matthew 5:23-24**

As Christians we live in two realms, one natural and the other spiritual. Many, it seems, have a mindset that only spiritual things are good or godly, whilst natural things are bad or worldly. However, if we look back to the beginning, when God created everything, we see he created many 'natural' things and called them 'good'. While it's true that many things in the natural realm have been tainted by sin, it's also true they are not all a result of sin. Yes, the Bible is clear that we 'war' in the spirit, but it's also clear that we 'walk' in the natural.

Some people are skilled warriors in the 'war' (the spiritual side of the Christian life) but struggle when it comes to the 'walk' (the natural side). Others are really organised in the natural but fade in times of spiritual war. It's so important to pay close attention to both of these areas, realising that there are so many things that start in the natural that have a great impact in the spiritual.

Our spiritual lives are often so consumed with questions about God's will, his presence, our calling, our potential and our blessing. We look to heaven constantly seeking answers. But sometimes a lot of the solutions start in the natural realm, in our everyday. For instance, we want to know the mind of Christ and his will for us, but often we aren't prepared to make decisions and choices that bring transformation in the way we think and change in the way we live. We know that in everything, prayer is essential and powerful, but sometimes we also have to take steps in the natural to reach our God-given potential.

Don't underestimate the power of the decisions made in the natural this year and how they can trigger what God wants to do in the spiritual. Many big spiritual challenges start with steps in the natural. Are you willing to take the steps in the natural so that you can see the resultant impact in the spiritual?

Let's decide this year to live with the spirit of an overcomer and take the right steps in the natural that will bring great impact in the spiritual!

## *Church Highlights*

- Vision Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Heart & Soul Night Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February

## *Pray Together*

- **Salvations - that people come to know Jesus.**
- **Pastors Brian and Bobbie Houston.**
- **For the multiplication of Connect Groups and Connect Group leaders.**

## *Nation Builders*

We can make a difference as a connect group by praying for the Nation Builders causes we support and by giving together. Our offering extends the reach of our church locally to reach and influence the world for Jesus.

# Natural Solutions to Spiritual Problems

## Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

### First the Natural then the Spiritual

- Q What sort of things comes to mind when you think of the spiritual things and natural things?
- Q Have you encountered people who are more “spiritually-minded” or more “naturally-minded?” Why do you think this is the case?
- Q What choices can be made in our daily (natural) lives that will have an effect in our spiritual lives?
- Q Ps Brian suggested we sometimes ask **God** to deliver us from things he wants **us** to overcome. What are your thoughts on this? Can you think of some examples?
- Q Share a story with the group where changing something in the natural affected a spiritual situation you found you were in.
- Q Sometimes the simplest act in the natural is just asking for wisdom from those around you. (**Leaders hint:** Get people to share their situations and discuss possible next steps they can take)

## Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical world view

### Read 1 Corinthians 15:45-46

- Q Why do you think Christians can sometimes downplay the natural and overemphasise the spiritual?
- Q How would you explain the relationship between the natural and the spiritual?
- Q Give some biblical examples of natural actions that have spiritual results.

### Read Romans 12:2

- Q What are your initial thoughts on this passage? How have you applied it in life?
- Q What do you think is meant by “the renewing of your mind”?
- Q What practical steps are required in the natural to accomplish this renewal?
- Q What is mentioned as the outcome of a renewed and transformed mind?
- Q We can think it is only by prayer we are able to know the mind of Christ. This passage seems to say something else. What are your thoughts on this?

## Growing Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders

### Natural & Spiritual Leadership

Let’s apply the idea of “first the natural then the spiritual” to leadership:

- Q What are some “natural” aspects of leadership?
- Q What are some “spiritual” aspects of leadership?
- Q What does it mean to lead people spiritually?
- Q What natural things can you do or focus on as a leader that can have a spiritual result for those you lead?

### Bankrupt Without Love

- Q What do you think about Pastor Brian’s statement, (based on 1 Cor 13:1-3) “You’re bankrupt without love”?
- Q Compare leadership with and without love. How do they differ?
- Q How are you going with loving the people you lead?

## Pastoral Care

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people through life’s challenges
- With their permission, should anyone in your connect group experience sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, or surgeries, please contact our church office:  
Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500, Newcastle 02 4927 1888