Have you had friends or close family members who became associated with an individual or group and change into someone very different? What causes these changes to take place and what is really happening when they do?

Answers to these and many other questions are in understanding the activity and ability of the spirit realm to "transmit" and "transfer" thoughts, feelings or emotions which influence the actions and behavior patterns of nations, people groups and individuals.

The spirit realm is foundational to the natural realm. From it, things in the natural were created and are maintained. The natural universe is a physical reflection and manifestation of the spirit universe. God has created both realms by his breath (spirit) and his word Jesus).

Man was created by God in his own image and likeness as a spirit being with the ability to interact with both realms. In its fallen state, the human spirit is dead towards God and occupied by the spirit of sin (the satanic nature). Though dead, it is still active and is still used to receive and release spiritual power through the soul and body into the earth realm.

When we are "born again" we receive the spirit of Christ which drives out the spirit of sin and gives us a new nature and spirit. "The promise of the father" (new covenant) contains within it a "new heart", a "new spirit" and the very "spirit of God", himself (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

However, our spirits can still be influenced by the spirit of the world and by the spirits of man until we are renewed in the spirit of our mind.

Ephesians 4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Romans 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:5–11 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

To renew the spirit of your mind is to learn to yield to the mind of the spirit through the process of renewing the mind to the word of God.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

An understanding of how certain words are used will be helpful here. The word "heart" is used of the "spirit" and "soul" combined. The "soul" is the mind, intellect and emotions. The "flesh" may mean the body but is generally used of "body and soul" acting out of fallen nature. Only by revelation of the "word" are we able to separate these things:
Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The organs of the spirit are: 1) the "conscience" which works with the "will". This is where we "know" the leading of the spirit. The inner knowing is to do or not – “this is God or not”.

2) "Intuition" influences and works with the "intellect". This is the area of our spirit that is opened up by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and through which we speak in other tongues and operate in the manifestations of the spirit.

3) "Communion" is the spirit’s faculty for "worship". This comes from deep in the spirit and reaches out into the realm of our "emotions" or feelings, affecting our body the most.

Our bodies have five gates of input into the soul or mind: touch (feel gate), taste (mouth gate), smelling (nose gate), seeing (eye gate) and hearing (ear gate). It is through these gates we receive input from the natural realm and relate and interact with it.

Yet these gates may also be used to receive and discharge spirit power along with our thoughts, emotions and words. What we allow to come in and proceed out of these gates will affect our total being either for good or evil. For example:

Proverbs 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

The word "wholesome" is "marpe" and means "health, healing, cure, profit, sound". The word "perverseness" is "celeph" and means "to twist, overthrow, perverse". The word "breaks" is "sheber" and means "breaking, fracture, crushing, breach, crash, ruin, shattering". It could be read: "healing words are a tree of life: but perverse and twisted words break into our spirits".

Proverbs 21:23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

Pro 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a broken spirit?

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility.

Proverbs 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Pro 25:28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.

Pro 20:27 The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.

Proverbs 18:20-21 A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.  21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 4:20-24 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.  21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;  22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.  23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.  24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.
What affects and influences us on any one level of our being will affect and influence us on all three levels, spirit, soul, and body. Guard your heart (soul and spirit) because there are three sources of "spirit" transmission and influence which are not discerned by the 5 gates of the soul.

The spirit of God: (or spirits from God.)
The spirit of man: (the activity of human spirits.)
The spirit of the world: (activity of satanic angelic spirits, demonic spirits and nature spirits.)

1 Corinthians 2:9–16 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

To help understand transference of spirits, consider that when you are brought in contact with a flu virus, it transfers to you. You then have it and so does the person from whom you received it. This is also the case in the realm of the spirit.

As a spirit passes on or transfers it does not decline but multiplies and increases in influence. This is also true when transference of the anointing or spirits from God takes place. They multiply and increase.

Acts 6:6–7 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The results of a positive transference or an impartation of the anointing through the laying on of hands by the apostles caused the "word of God" to increase and the deacons who received this transference began to operate in the power and manifestations of the spirit.

However, transference of spirit or spirits may also produce negative results. There are a number of different ways spirits may transfer or be imparted. The twelve spies are a case of transference of spirits from a negative report and a spirit of unbelief (Numbers 13).

Satan is an imitator, not an originator. He uses the same pattern established by God for transferring a good spirit to transfer wrong spirits between men. We see two contrary spirits seeking to control the people. One was the spirit of unbelief. The other was the spirit of belief.

Unfortunately, spirits of despair, murmuring, and rebellion transferred from the ten spies to all of God's people except Joshua and Caleb. Israel was not kept out of the Promised Land because of an inferior army. They were kept out because of a wrong spirit.

Why were the people affected by the evil spirit instead of the good? Because of the basic sin nature people tend to immediately accept and believe an evil report. There is also a tendency to "follow the crowd" and accept the decision of the majority as the will of God.
This powerful strategy of transference of spirits accounts for many of the spiritual battles fought by believers today. It accounts for the abrupt changes from positive to negative behavior which we witness in those around us. It explains why two children, raised in the same home, who receive the same Christian training, can turn out so differently.

It is the reason behind divisions in homes, friendships, and church fellowships. When you maintain close association with or come under the influence of a person’s spirit, you are open to the transference of that spirit to your own spirit.

The statements made by the unbelieving spies became what they received. The statements made by Caleb and Joshua became what they received.

The perception of the spies was, "we are as grasshoppers in their sight". The thought picture you have of yourself is the transmission you send out into the spirit world. That combined with the words of your mouth is what spirits will perceive you to be and flee or attack accordingly.

Thus, we must guard our hearts with all diligence...

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

In context, the new keeps on coming when...

2 Cor. 5:15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

That is, they experience death, burial, and resurrection life. The theme continues:

2 Cor. 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

2 Cor. 6:11-7:1 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”

“I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”

7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

The world is polluting. So, work together with Him unto perfect holiness through maturity in being “set apart.”

1 Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Work on three levels. Concentrate on the spirit.