

I. Introduction

- A. The first smart phone came out in 1994. It was called the Simon Personal Communicator and was made by IBM. Simon weighed a pound. It was 8 inches long, 2.5 inches wide, and 1.5 inches thick.
- B. Yes, it was big, but back in 1994 you were wearing Hammer pants so you have plenty of room in your pockets.
- C. Google it.
- D. For about a thousand dollars in 1994 money, Simon could send a fax, send an email, store your contacts, and save your calendar. It could also tell you the time. Simon boasted a four function calculator and even had a digital game — Scrabble.
- E. Simon wowed customers with a massive battery life of one whole hour.
- F. With only a few major cities offering cell service, and its clunky size... plus the emerging technology of very hip flip phones... Simon didn't last long.
- G. Six months after its launch, and 2,000 sales later, IBM cut its losses and sent Simon to an early grave.
- H. Simon was a nice try, but in the end it was simply the wrong operating system and couldn't really thrive in the real world.

II. The Human Soul

- A. The human soul is like a living, breathing, God-created smartphone.
- B. There are two operating systems... and one of them has a light mode and a dark mode.
- C. I would like to set this up in one place in the Bible, and then move into the book of Second Peter, which we have been studying.
- D. Here are the operating systems of the human soul.
 - 1. *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. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. (1 Corinthians 2:14, 15, NKJV)*

III. Two Operating Systems

- A. Paul is contrasting two human operating systems. There is the Natural OS and there is the Spiritual OS. The natural person and the spiritual person.
- B. As a human being, you are made of three elements: body, soul, and spirit. The New Testament calls these Soma, Psyche, and Pneuma.
- C. When a person is born, their bodies are live, and their soul is alive, but they are spiritually dead. Until you are saved, you are spiritually unresponsive to God and God's truth.
- D. So this verse says the Natural OS cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God.
 - 1. *Natural — psychikos... a person with a soul only.*
 - a) A Soulless person. This person has an active mind, will, and emotions, but a non-functioning human spirit, so they cannot relate to God. God-stuff seems foolish to them.
 - b) The Natural OS is always going to be a mashup of humanism and legalism. It will work okay, but not great, and it always comes down to a soul-deadening need to perform and prove yourself in a harsh world you can't really explain.
 - 2. *Spiritual — pneumatikos... a person with both a soul AND a spirit.*
 - a) A Spiritual person... this is a saved person. This is a person who has been born again, and is now spiritually alive. If you are running the Spiritual OS you have the capacity to understand and evaluate truth from God's perspective, and you are no longer under God's judgment or anyone's judgment.
 - b) The Spiritual OS deletes the coding for humanism and legalism, and installs this amazing thing called grace. Grace is the native language for the believer in Jesus Christ. Grace is the coding language for the Spiritual OS.
 - c) Grace doesn't work with the Natural OS. Grace makes that operating system crash. It's not just an add on. You need to be saved before grace really works in your heart.
- E. So the first question any human being must ask themselves is am I running the Natural OS or the Spiritual OS, because these are starkly different.
- F. Now let's say that a person is saved. They are, according to the Bible, now running the Spiritual OS.
- G. This operating system has a light mode and a dark mode. Paul mentions the dark mode two verses later.
 - 1. *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:1)*
- H. So we have a natural person (psychikos), a spiritual person (pneumatikos), and now a carnal person.

1. Carnal — *sarkikos*... a person dominated by the flesh (*sarx*), which is the scraps of mental and emotional programming left over from your pre-saved days, reinforced daily by the world
2. A carnal person is saved. They are running the Spiritual OS. They are spiritually alive. But their are corruptions in their coding.
3. So we'll draw a box here...
 - a) Carnal is Spiritual with malware.
 - b) The carnal Christian is immature, "babes in Christ."
 - c) They are not able to go deep with God's Word (milk, not meat, v. 2).
 - d) They are characterized by needless drama (envy, strife, and divisions, v. 3)
 - e) They are polarized into taking sides with and against each other (I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, v. 4).
 - f) Carnality, worldliness, flesh-dominated lifestyle is the dark mode of the Spiritual OS.
 - g) Carnal Christians are killing the church... and they pretty much own social media. Be alert and don't get sucked in.
4. Carnal Christians give Christianity a really bad name.
5. If you are a carnal Christian, please don't wear any Pathway church t-shirts or hats, thank you. God loves you. You are forgiven. You are saved. You are going to heaven.
6. But you are crashing all the time because you embrace a) thinking, and b) a lifestyle that is not compatible with the new nature, the new operating system God implanted in you on the day you were saved.
 - a) If you keep crashing, this is why.
 - b) If you are living in dysfunction and brokenness as a Christian, this is why.
 - c) You need to quit walking in the flesh (*sarkikos*) and start walking in the Spirit (*pneumatikos*) like God intended all along.
 - d) How? How do you make that switch?
7. To answer that, let's turn back to Second Peter.

IV. Second Peter

- A. My talk today is part four in a series. The series is called Faith Wins. We have been going line by line through this book in the Bible called Second Peter.
- B. Today, we pick it up at verse four, one of the most uplifting places in the whole Bible.
 1. *...by [God's glory and virtue] have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:4)*
- C. We're going to take this verse backwards. There is something we escape, something we partake of, and something that makes these things happen.
 1. Or, because I can't help pressing an analogy just a little too far... *Installing God's Promises*... three key elements
 - a) The Malware (something to escape)
 - b) The Upgrade (something to partake of)
 - c) The App (great and precious promises)

V. *Installing God's Promises*

- A. *The Malware*...
 1. *Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
 2. This is the carnal operating system. This is a believer whose mind and emotions are broken.
 3. This malware is programed by the devil and installed by the world-system.
 4. It is what you inherit as a citizen of a fallen world, influenced by what the Bible calls doctrines of demons.
 5. You might have noticed when you woke up on the day after you were saved, you were pretty much the same person you were on the day before you were saved.
 6. God didn't erase your mind, your memories, you habits, your desires.
 7. You did receive a new nature, but it sits side by side with the corrupted mental and emotional programing from your pre-saved days. Now that you are saved, God wants to clean all that out.
 8. Because if you don't clean it out, you will be saved, but carnal. Get it? This stuff will dominate you.
 9. Specifically, there's the word *lust*. That word means strong desires, and in this context strong desires that pull against God. These lusts and passions are programmed by your past brokenness.
 - a) You were trained to want certain things.
 - b) You were programmed to chase certain outcomes.

- c) You were conditioned to need certain ways of medicating pain.
 - (1) All this is broken, and it hurts, but it's what you know.
- 10. When Peter speaks of the corruption that is in the world through lust, he means the same dysfunctions that Paul means when he says carnal, of the flesh, the dark mode of your Christian life.
- 11. But, you can escape these things. That is my message for you today.
 - a) You don't have to be stuck.
 - b) You don't have to stay broken.
 - c) You don't have to let the snare of the devil run your emotions, own your purposes, or dominate your decisions. You can escape.
- 12. And notice, that when Peter uses the word escape, he is suggesting something. He is suggesting that a person is actually trapped in these things.
- 13. You need a prison break from all this broken programming.
- 14. And that is what you can have. You can have an upgrade.

B. *The Upgrade*

- 1. *That by these you may be partakers of the divine nature.*
- 2. You may be. You have permission from God. And you have power from God.
- 3. To do what?
- 4. To be a partaker of the divine nature. This word means partner (koinonos).
- 5. This is to say that anybody becomes a God or even a mini-god.
- 6. This is to say that your life can experience the love of God, the peace of God, the holiness of God, the wisdom of God, the power of God, the joy of God and all the other elements of God's nature that are possible for a human.
- 7. This is godliness. This is holiness. This is liberty. This is love.
- 8. This is how we as Christians have a positive testimony in very messed up world.
- 9. The world doesn't need miracles. They don't need signs and wonders.
- 10. They just need to see someone, anyone, who is a partaker of the divine nature, especially when life is tough.
- 11. They just need to see the nature of Jesus Christ living through you. Living through us.
- 12. When you were saved, Christ moved into you. The Holy Spirit moved into you. The divine nature is in you. Christ in you is the secret.
 - a) *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*
 - (1) The malware: having escaped the corruption that is in world through lust.
 - (2) The upgrade: you may become partakers of the divine nature.

C. *The App*

- 1. *By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises.*
- 2. Some things are great and not precious like large rocks. Some things are precious and are not great, like jewels. But what we have here are promises that are both great and precious.
- 3. A promise is a commitment to perform.
- 4. The promises of God are comprise a huge bulk of the Scriptures. God has committed himself to you. Go has committed himself to perform on your behalf.
- 5. Every promise of God is a line of code that urgently needs to be uploaded into your spirit.
 - a) *The promises of God are God's declarations to provide perfect blessing and provision for every specific situation of life.*
 - b) *Claiming the promises of God are your declarations to believe the perfect provision of God in each specific situation of your life.*
- 6. Let me give you five examples
 - a) *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)*
 - b) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*
 - c) *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. (Psalms 23:6)*
 - d) *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)*
 - e) *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)*

7. Some of God's promises are unconditional. That means there are no conditions, no requirements, no strings attached. God will keep his promises because he promised.
 - a) He will supply your need.
 - b) You will dwell in the house of the Lord forever as a child of God.
8. Some of God's promises are conditional. That means you have to fulfill the requirement for the promise to come true.
 - a) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*
 - (1) There's a condition there... to confess your sins... to name your sins to God. To keep on identifying the messed up places and the messed up behaviors in your life so they never feel normal.
 - (2) If you fulfill the condition, God fulfills the promise. He is faithful, and just, to forgive those specific sins you've just confessed.
 - (3) Yes, you are already forgiven... but now you remember it, you realize it, and you apply it to the specific situation.
 - (4) It's a conditional promise.
 - b) You can't claim conditional promises for your own life without fulfilling the conditions.
9. Here's an awesome conditional promise:
 - a) *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6, 7)*
10. I have made a list for you of the promises of God. **Text Promises to 75787.**
 - a) Link:
https://billgbucket1.s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/Bible_Promises_Veritas.pdf
 - b) Promises for sickness, for financial problems, for troubles, promises of victory... four pages.
11. God gave you promises so you could claim them. Study them. Recite them. Pray them. Memorize them.
12. Do whatever you have to to upload them into your soul.
 - a) There's not a situation in your life without a relevant promise from God, already written into the Bible.
 - (1) The Bible is a book of exceedingly great and precious promises.
 - (2) There is no shortcut.
 - (3) There is no prayer.
 - (4) There is no striving that can substitute for these promises.
 - (5) You need them.
 - (6) You need to know them.
13. This is the critical app that makes the whole Spiritual OS run right.
14. You're standing on the promises.
 - a) Something bad happens, and a promise of God springs to mind.
 - b) Something sad happens, and promise of God comforts you.
 - c) Something crazy happens, and conditional promise reminds you have some steps to take to make it right.
15. And instead of letting your lusts and dysfunctions run away with you, you become a partaker of the divine nature, and escape the corruption in the world through lust.
16. This is the Spiritual person. This is escape from carnality. This is the the beautiful upgrade God prepared for you long ago.
- 17.

VI. Conclusion

- A. Simon didn't last because Simon couldn't keep up with the real world.
 1. Neither can human wisdom.
 2. Neither can legalism.
 3. Neither can the flesh.
- B. *Only God's operating system can deal with what life is throwing at you... the Spiritual OS.*
- C. *And only when you've installed the Upgrade — the promises of God — can you escape the corruptions in the world through lust, and blaze forth as a partaker in the beautiful characteristics of God.*
- D. That is the message of Second Peter for us today.
- E. And that is my prayer for you and me and all the family of faith that is Pathway Church.