

## Audience 7

We have looked at man's original solitude, which allows us to see that man is not only conscious of his body, but also aware of its meaning. The problem with the science of the human body, is that it is concerned only with the physical structure of the body, whereas the person who studies and thinks about the origin, nature, and destiny of the body finds the relationship between body and soul.

We should first look at it from the physical perspective before we consider the abstract or non-tangible aspect. The Yahwist text contains the first evidence of the meaning of one's existence as well as the meaning of one's body, but it is shown on the basis of the concrete reality of man, and not on the understanding of an un-seeable and untouchable reality.

Man knows himself not only as a person, and a person with freedom of choice, but also as a physical being because of his body, and because of his self-determination, man almost becomes transparent because of his consciousness and self-determination. In other words, the invisible self becomes apparent because of it. This is why the meaning of the body can be seen from original solitude.

Man, with a basic understanding of his body is put in front of the tree of knowledge, and told that if "you eat of it you shall die." Man now becomes aware that his existence depends on God. He has no idea of the concept of death as it actually is because he has never experienced it, but he realizes that it the total opposite of what he has experienced so far. God confirmed to man that his existence was dependant on the Creator, that man did have his limits, and that by the nature of his existence was exposed to the possibility of non-existence.

When man was told that he would die if he ate of the fruit, he realized the truth of his "solitude". It depended on his decision, his free choice, whether or not he was going to know the difference between good and evil, and if he chose to know the difference, then he would also experience death and dying. This way man knew that good and evil did not just have its roots in the garden, but also in his own humanity.

We already distinguished the meaning of man's body because of its differences form all other bodies, and it has become clear that the "invisible" man is more important than the "visible" one. Now we find that death and immortality goes way beyond the meaning of "body" but also man's body as opposed to all other bodies. So death and immortality has been part of man "from the beginning", in his solitude. This original solitude, including the difference between death and immortality is fundamental to the whole theology of the body.