

# **Your Human and Spiritual Natures Must Be Studied Together**

## **A talk by Vernon Howard given on 07-01-84**

There are two kinds of natures. There is human nature – your nature – and there is spiritual nature. Both natures, human and spiritual, must be studied together. They must be absorbed into your life – parallel, together. You must study one and then study the other, go back to the other again, and get them both inside your system.

If you study only human ways, human thoughts and beliefs and lies – if you study human nature only, you're likely to get pretty dismayed at what you see, right? When you look at yourself without studying spiritual nature, you tend to want to lie about it and say, "I'm not that bad." You are not that bad; you're worse.

So you must study both together. If you study only spiritual nature without studying yourself, you will read about true spiritual principles, perhaps, but you will never see your need for them. It is only when you see yourself – how lost you are, how you brag, how you pretend, how hostile you are, how afraid you are of self-change, and how you pretend that you already understand things – only when you see your self-deceit, can you then connect it with your spiritual studies and say, "Ah, thank God. This is what I need and what I can obtain."

From now on you will remember these points, and you will not leave out either one of them. If you study just human nature, you can go into a great mistake, for example, of being proud of how evil you are, of how dark you are, and lie about it and lie about your own criminal thoughts.

Or, in the case of one of the worst kind of wrong development in a human being, if you study only spiritual principles, you will then lie and say you understand them. And not only that, but you're now religious and you're good. You're a good person, a good religious person. That always happens – and it's always a great disaster, of course, and it's always extremely hypocritical. A religious hypocrite is what we're talking about.

A religious hypocrite is one who has studied only spiritual principles and says, "I understand them. I'm one of them. I'm the good type of person. And the other people who don't believe as I do are the bad people." This happens because you have not had the courage or the honesty or the decency to study your human nature at the same time to see how lost you are. God can only save – God can only save a lost human being who knows he's lost. Which is why your diligent observation of yourself as you are must, as painful as it is, as shocking as it is to you – you must let your own observation of your lying life come up to consciousness where you see it. Then the spiritual studies that have run parallel to your human studies will be able to help you.

I have just given you in the first few minutes, the entire course of human deliverance, salvation, rescue. If you follow what you have heard just so far diligently, faithfully – just obey the right order of things, just obey the lessons, as you hear them. If you disobey what I just said, you're not going to make it, but you won't know that you didn't make it. because then you will go into what I described, an imaginary life for yourself, in which deep down your old nature, which you refused to disclose – your old nature will torment you.

We are talking about a way out of self-torment which you will find only in this room. You're not going to find it anywhere else. Wherever you go, you will find one of the false paths. Wherever else you go, you will find the false paths that I've described. Either you look inside yourself and then do all sorts of wrong things – for example, say, "That hatred that I saw isn't me. I have a right to be hateful for what other people did to me." Or you'll become a religious charlatan and never, never know God. It is possible to know God, but you must follow the steps that I have just given you.

Now I want to give you an example of why you must study how your mind operates. Look, ladies, gentlemen, this is a full-time occupation. You have no more time to waste. None of you anywhere, listening to this talk, has any more time to waste. You've wasted enough time already, wandering around, hoping you're going to find an answer that appeals to your vanity and egotism. You'll find them, all right, and you'll never change. We're showing you how to change.

Okay. Once upon a time, there was a group of tourists who came from all parts of the world, and they got on a big boat, and all the tourists from all nations around the world came to an island. A resort island. And it wasn't just for a short visit, it was for kind of an extended – they were having a full-length vacation there of several weeks. So the boat docked and all the people got out. And they all went about being tourists on the island. They had their little cabins, and they had their rides around the island, and they had their photographs. But for the purpose of this story, here is what they all did. After the initial landing of a day or two and they got a little bit settled down, here's what they did. Follow this illustration. It will tell you how your mind operates.

They were Americans and Swedes and Frenchmen and Germans. And after two or three days, the Americans started seeking out the Americans, and they formed their little group together. The Swedes found other Swedes and Norwegians, and they got their little group together. Each group of people, nations – from different nations, found out their own nationality, their own people, and associated with them. They sought them out.

The lesson: whatever is the nature of your thoughts, your mind, the level, whether low level or high and truly noble because they're spiritual thoughts – whatever the level of your thoughts, they will always project themselves out into the physical, social world and try to find whatever is identical to them.

I have explained in just a few seconds why you get into trouble. You get into

trouble outwardly because you're already in trouble inwardly with the very low level of your comprehension of your life and the spiritual principle. You go out and, quite unknown to yourself – this is an unconscious process. The Frenchmen didn't know consciously they were seeking out Frenchmen. It was just a mechanical thing. They didn't understand themselves. The Americans who sought out Americans didn't understand they were doing that. People aren't interested in psychology. They're interested in good meals and thrills and someone who will back up their lies and get a thrill over being backed up which will destroy you.

Every thought you send out will be actively engaged in trying to find its partner, mate, its similar thought or level in the outer world. This will explain, ladies, why you got in trouble with that – that man. A part of you was on the same low level that he was. And eventually his low level expressed itself, and you ladies wonder how on earth you could ever – ever be deceived so badly. And you'll blame everything but your own lack of comprehension, your own lack of understanding what I'm talking about, including the parallel story that your thoughts go out and reproduce themselves, make contact with and reproduce themselves in other people and in events. You'll be attracted to places and events that are like your dominating thoughts. People who go to bars and they get drunk and they get into fights with other people down in bars, or they meet a criminal type and they go out and they rob a bank together, why was that man or woman attracted to the bar in the first place? Because the bar was in them first of all.

We always – we always seek out people who are on our level. And you see, by the way, if you understood this – this human nature, trait about yourself – you would then understand how you can associate only with health instead of with the ill-health that you have been associating with and which has been very bad for you.

How clear it will become to you as you comprehend the two natures I talked about, spiritual and human – how clear it will become to you that all you have to do – all you have to do – is stop thinking the kind of thoughts you now on think. And therefore, if they don't send themselves out, they can't attract more of what they are. And therefore you're not going to get into trouble anymore.

And incidentally, I have talked about the exterior world. And I have told you already how to stay out of trouble with other people. People who can con you financially, romantically, sexually, any other way. You'll never be conned again. But now we have to go a little bit deeper. A whole lot deeper.

One delusory thought, one greedy emotion inside of you, will make contact and arouse other delusory and greedy and evil thoughts inside of you, and you will live from a gang of thug-thoughts. Those thug-thoughts take over your mind, your directions, what you do, what you say, how you feel. They will take over your entire life. And if you could see that, for example, wouldn't you – wouldn't you want to say, "I don't want to be hauled off to the slums and get attacked by the bums down there." Either outside or inside yourself. "I don't want to be hurt anymore because I see what's

happening, and I see my responsibility for it.

"Ah, I know what to do to not live a life of secret desperation. I know what. Because I heard that talk, and it said study human nature – all right. I've studied my human nature. And I see how desolate – how deceitful I am, how lazy I am, how I lie about everything, how I don't want to face the truth but I want to run out into a corner. I know what to do. I will allow the spiritual nature to do the correction, because I know how hopeless I am by trying to rescue myself because all I can do is follow the lies – the leadership lies of my old nature and do everything that keeps me exactly where I am in the muddy fields, slipping – slipping around in it. I know what to do, parallel with this shocking study and exposure of what a hypocrite I've been all my life. Oh, yes, it's shocking, but I'm going to face it. I refuse to lie to myself anymore because I see that it keeps me sick!"

If you will say that, I'll tell you what you will gloriously say next. Ah, as a little boy, as a little girl, you might have gone to Sunday school or you might have read a religious book, and you heard little phrases like "Turn it over to God." You heard little statements like, "Truth, God is the only power." That "Evil has no power in and of itself." It really – and which is true. You have heard all these true facts, but religious hypocrites were saying them. Those people who said them did not live the life, and you knew that. You caught that – you caught that religious hypocrite with a – with a sneer on his face, and you knew – no one had to tell you. You were only eight years old, but you saw that man with all the religious clothing he had on and carrying a religious book – you saw him with a quick, fast sneer on his face. You caught him out of a role, and you knew that everything he said that was right was not right about him. And it shocked you. And it maybe even turned you against religion because you couldn't see it wholly. You didn't know about human nature at that time. All right.

You have seen in yourself everything that is weak, everything that keeps you in your secret life, desolate and suppressed and afraid. You are all afraid, aren't you? All of you are afraid, and you know it. And God knows it.

So you heard these phrases – now, let me tell you something. All those phrases you heard, the right phrases, true phrases – the right phrases you heard were right. And now it suddenly occurs to you – because you have taken the right course of studying – you see how utterly shallow people are, how they brag about everything. You meet a bunch of people, and they brag about how great they are, how much they know. They know nothing. They're lost. And all of a sudden you remember – you remember you had a little – they gave you a little picture to send home from Sunday school. And it said – under the little picture it says, "God can save you."

Now, you weren't too interested in that. You didn't comprehend it. It was a right start. You have to start with little children on their own level. And there's a little picture, and you were more interested in that picture of the lambs out in the field and the shepherd there. And that was very nice to you. You looked at that, but you didn't understand the words. Nevertheless, it's good and necessary to put those words for little children. "God is the only power," whatever nice statement it said below the little picture. And

you remembered that.

And by the way, do you know why you remembered that? Because there's something that responded in you even when you were a little child, a little boy or girl – you responded to it because something in you sensed the trueness of it. You didn't know it. You were far from living it. But it stuck with you because something was alive in you. The world hadn't wrecked you yet. You were still unspoiled. That is, the blackboard of your mind hadn't been scribbled on with lying words so that it was filled up with that. Society was beginning to write lies on it and you began to believe. But there was enough space yet where when that came, the impression came that God can rescue you and God loves you, that's right. God loves you. The only thing that loves you. There's no love. You have no love. You don't know what love is. You haven't the slightest idea of what it is. You know hatred. That's it. Study hatred not love.

That remained with you, and now after all these years – how old are you? Thirty? Fifty? Eighty? After all these years, if you want – if you choose – I'm talking about you right now – I'm talking about you whom I'm talking to, and I'm talking about you right now at this moment you are here, hearing this talk. Right now, if you wish – that's all you have to do – all you have to do is wish, want, desire – if you wish to see instead of talk – instead of blab – if you wish to perceive instead of feel – you know what you feel, and it's pretty bad, isn't it? You feel lonely. You feel a lot of hostility, even hostility toward the truth you're hearing right now.

By the way – I interrupt myself. Everything about you is known by me as I'm talking to you now. Your inner life, that is. I know absolutely everything about every one of you listening to this talk which is why you can be helped here in this room. Anyone who doesn't know anything about you because he is such a – someone outside is such an egotist. How can he help you? He hasn't helped himself. He's lost. The lost are leading the lost, and both fall into the ditch. Right?

If right now you wish – even if it's weak and wobbly – if you wish and you choose to understand the blackboard in which all these – these dreadful, hypocritical lying statements were made about life – for example, that you should become rich and famous – all these lies by which you have lived and which confused you so badly will gradually be erased off the blackboard which will make room for that sensing of truth that you had when you were a little girl of six, a little boy of eight. All that natural sensing that was there, all the junk that has been imposed on top of it can be removed. And this is the great excavator right here in this talk, this room, we're removing all the junk. If you will permit it. All the junk is going to oppose you fiercely because it wants to stay in your life and burden your life and keep it as it is.

All lost thoughts want to find other lost thoughts inside of you. All frantic feelings want to find other frantic feelings inside of you in order to gang up and try to prevent you from coming back to this class, from absorbing what you've heard even today. Don't you go along with what is keeping you as you now are. What you are right now, in your heart you know it's all wrong, don't you? I said, in your heart – not in your mind – your mind will lie to

you left and right. I'm talking – when I say heart, that's a figure of speech. Deep down inside you know there is something desperately wrong with you and every other human being you know. All your relatives and associates, the stranger you meet somewhere. You know, you sense, how weak they are. They don't have the answers, and their eyes are vacant.

That – that is marvelous to know because you have never known it before. You have hidden it from yourself for fear that you'll be too scared by what you see in yourself and others, and also the great fear of all, which I will now erase – the great fear that there may not be an answer to it. There is an answer to every confusion, every agony, every bewilderment, every pain, every suffering, every stress that you have. There is an answer to everything that hurts you. You will find it here.

Now, never again – never, never again believe anything that goes contrary to what I told you. That you, starting right now, if this is new to you – starting right now, you can put yourself on a different side. Heretofore you've been putting yourself on your own side. Now, what does your own side mean? Pretty dark and wretched, isn't it? We can teach you how to disassociate yourself from your own wrong side and begin to develop – I used several illustrations – develop the blackboard so that only right statements are on it. And then you will obey – oh, what a great pleasure it is to obey the truth written on the blackboard of your mind. To obey that and see yourself rise above the slums of society. All of – all of human society is a slum. How can you stand it anymore? The fact is, you can't stand it, but you don't know the answer. You'll find it here, and you will not find it anyplace else except where the truth might be spoken. But you have to have discernment and a wish to know whether it's right or wrong when you hear it. I will tell you – I will make it easy on you right now. Every word you hear in this room any time, anyplace, from up here is the pure truth. No one ever lies to you in this hall. Truth, God, loves you too much to lie to you. Satanic forces, dark evil spirits, delusory thoughts, will always lie to you because they want to keep you their prisoner.

Oh, how much you have got to work on over this the rest of the weekend. Oh, for the rest of the year-end, the century-end. (Laughter) On and on. All right.

Look at the spiritual part now. We've been talking about human nature. Now look at the spiritual part. Perception is possession. Write it down. Perception is possession. You understand that? Look at it a little bit. What you see spiritually – we're talking about spiritual perception – seeing something with your true nature, your higher nature – what you see you possess.

If you're out hunting in the hills for rubies – raw rubies – you search around and you see a ruby on the ground, isn't the seeing of that ruby your possession of it? Of course. Same thing. That's a physical illustration.

You see a beautiful – you're up high on a hill, and you see a beautiful scene of a stream, and cottonwood trees over the stream, and there's flowers and the birds are singing – a very beautiful natural thing. Have you ever noticed how you're drawn naturally toward nature? And we're wrecking it as fast as

we can.

Anyway, when you see that beautiful scene, isn't it yours? Perception is possession. And by the way, the false seeing of evil – seeing evil because you want to see it – that will become your possession, too. Your possession for destruction. But we're talking now about why you should – along with your study of yourself, of human ways, why you should study spiritual principles. Because once you see them clearly, once understood, that understanding is what permits them to operate through you and therefore for you.

This is a life – this life of the – being possessed by the spirit of God – this kind of life is unknown to people, and to the vast majority of people, and the last people to understand it are your so-called religious people. They talk, and they lie, and they destroy. We're talking about true spirituality in which there is no division between what you say and what you are. And what you *are* determines what you say and what you do and how you feel. In which there's only one whole, healthy individual. An individual who – who can never again do the bad things that you used to do against other people.

Have you noticed how afraid you are that you may be doing something bad that will hurt both you and others? Have you noticed – are you aware of that part of your human nature? That you may impulsively blurt some nonsense out. And the minute you've said it – "I did it again." That sort of thing. Or think certain thoughts. If you have within you still a certain right kind of remorse, repentance for saying and doing bad things, repentance for it, awareness of it, there's hope for you. There is no hope whatever for any man or woman who is beyond shame. That's most human beings. Most human beings are incapable of shame.

You ask them, "Why did you – why did you fiercely slap that little child of yours?" And that shrieking, neurotic hysterical woman will scream out, "Because he bothers me all the time. He never shuts up." And so her answer to the problem is to slap the little kid. And makes – makes him what she is. And it's happened to all of us, and maybe all of us have all slapped the little kid in a little way. Maybe you slapped your wife, gentlemen. Ladies, maybe you were just as sick towards your boyfriend or husband in the same way. But we're talking about you still being at the point where you can be saved.

In this – I'm going to repeat it deliberately because I know that you're – I know that your life, not only in this life but beyond this life – I know that what you do with what I'm telling you will determine whether you have a life after life or not. You do not understand what I just said at all. Don't try. You'll just distort it. But I'm telling you that what you do with what you've heard here today is the deciding, determining, overwhelming factor of what happens to you in the future. If you accept it, you will change your future because you will change your nature. You will rise above your own slum-nature, your own nature that lives from past experiences, and you will acquire an authentic spiritual nature which lives only in the now. Not in memory and not in past, but only in now which is freedom. And that freedom which is now is always freedom now. If the clock says nine-thirty,

that's freedom right now for you. If the clock says ten-thirty, that's still freedom for you. Because your now-nature, your eternal nature, is never tied to clocks or calendars which means you can be happy right here in this life regardless of anything that happens to you outwardly or even inwardly because only good can happen to you because nothing bad can happen to your true nature.

One of our primary tasks in these talks is to help you keep alive your sense of shame.

Now, take my word for it and then find out for yourself. Take my word for it for now, then I want you to prove it for yourself. Which you can.

If any human being loses his sense of shame, of real repentance, there's no hope for him because the truth can never get through to him. He's decided that he knows what is best. And in his hatred and violence he says that's what is best. You would have to be insane to say that hatred and violence is what is best for you. And what you do to yourself you will also do to others.

We will keep the spark alive – oh, how – nothing is more important to all of you hearing this than to keep that spark alive. We'll show you how to do it. We'll show you how to work against the darkness that wants to extinguish that so that you're beyond help. See, most people cannot listen.

How many people in this room are here right now when they're – there's maybe a half a million who could be here. Most people do not want to recover themselves. They want to go on as they are, staggering downhill, getting scarer and scarer and the fog getting thicker and thicker. And them feeling under a sense of doom and destruction.

We will show you how to put away completely and finally all feelings, unconscious feelings – unconscious now – you don't know them consciously. We will tell you how to put away all feelings of gloom and destruction.

You now – the talk is about completed. You now have been told what to do to rescue your individual soul. Forget the world and listen to the truth. Listen to God. You now, each one of you, are now responsible for making a decision in favor of yourself. I urge you, for your sake, to make the decision in favor of yourself, to continue to listen to these liberating truths. Never listen to what you've been listening to in the past which has kept you so tied down and kept you feeling whipped all day long.

Only the truth will give you what you authentically need. You will find it here in this room four times a week. In this room is the light and the truth that will save you if you want to be saved. If you wish to be authentically saved. Wish right now to be genuinely rescued and you will be.