Flesh And Blood Cannot Inherit The Kingdom Of God

I. Introduction:

- A. A living soul (Genesis 2:4-7).
 - 1. We know that the physical body of a man and a woman is dead when that person's spirit leaves that fleshly body (**James 2:26**).
 - 2. Life doesn't end at that point though (I Corinthians 15:45-49).
- B. With that, shouldn't we think of ourselves as a soul with a body rather than a body with a soul (**Zechariah 12:1**)?
 - 1. Think about it, if you were physically dead what would it take for you to be alive again (I Kings 17:8-24).
 - 2. Think about it, is your physical body going to Heaven (**Philippians 3:20-21**)?

II. Body: I Corinthians 15:50-58

- A. Our lives need to be about the inward man (II Corinthians 4:14-5:1).
 - 1. Keep the right perspective about the temporary things of the flesh (Psalms 39:4-8, Isaiah 40:6-8, and I John 2:15-17).
 - 2. Remember that you are designed for eternity in one place or another (**John 5:24-29**; cf. **Matthew 25:31-46**).
- B. Consider how the flesh wars <u>against</u> the spirit (**Galatians 5:16-26** and **I Peter 2:11**).
 - 1. In a context showing the contrast of the carnality under the Law of Moses and the spiritual life in Christ, Paul wrote some things that reveals the process of this point (**Romans 7:10-25**).
 - 2. The body wants and that leads to sin if not stopped (James 1:13-16).
- C. Think about how looking at ourselves spiritually changes one's whole perspective about life in this world:
 - 1. How we value earthly possessions (Psalms 49:6-20, Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:15-21, and I Timothy 6:6-19).
 - 2. We don't look at people carnally [color of skin; wealth; culture; body type, etc.]; we see saved or lost souls (**Acts 24:15**).
 - 3. We recognize the brother/sister relationship above all earthly relationships because even marriage is not eternal (**Mark 12:24-25**).
 - 4. We look at physical jobs as a means, not as life (Ecclesiastes 5:18-19, I Timothy 5:8, and II Thessalonians 3:10).
 - 5. We value what is to come far greater than what is (Romans 6:17-22).
- III. Conclusion: While the Spirit of God doesn't directly work through us today, consider this point: **Romans 8:12-13**