

SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY



Lecture 2

Spirit, Soul & Body

A RIGHT UNDERSTANDING

Without a proper understanding of spirit, soul and body, you will be ruled by your body and soul (the flesh) instead of the Holy Spirit and will cut yourself off from experiencing God’s supernatural life in you. When you only align your soul with what you can see, taste, hear, smell and feel, instead of with what you perceive in the Word by the Spirit, you will remain in the natural realm and fail to enter into the supernatural. It must grieve God to see how many believers fail to experience His life and power.

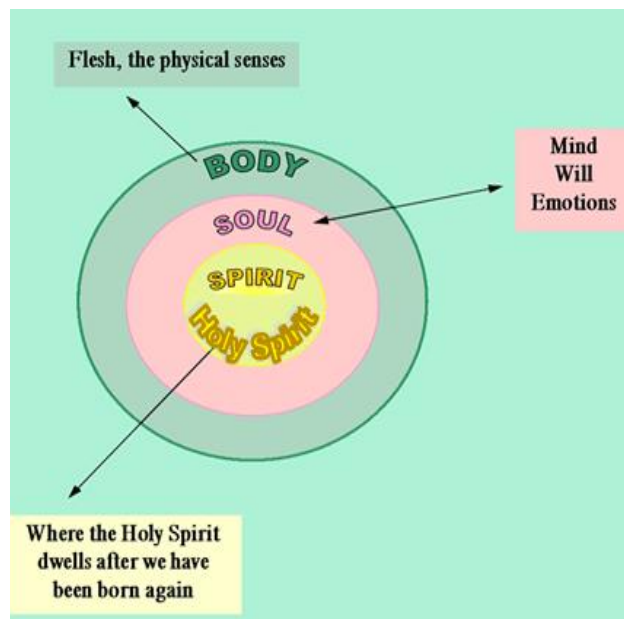
After God formed Adam, He breathed into him the breath of life.

Genesis 2:7 (NASB)

“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

The Hebrew word for “breath” is “spirit”. Adam’s body had no life in it until the “spirit” was imparted. Your spirit is your eternal living part.

In your spirit you have the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20). Yet it is possible to have this power and never manifest it.



We are a spirit being, we possess a soul and we live in a physical body. Let’s take a look at the remaining two parts:

THE BODY

Our body is the tent we live in. Our body enables us to contact this world by means of our five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch.

Our body is the flesh, the natural realm. As we discussed in Lecture 1, the sinful nature ignites the flesh and causes it to sin. There is no faith nor any real hope in the flesh, only in the spirit realm we have faith by the Holy Spirit.

Before the Fall, Adam’s body was immortal, it was a glorified body and the Holy Spirit was the only influence, the only source. At the Fall, Adam lost the glory of God and the Holy Spirit and instead,

received the sinful nature which affected his whole being. Now Adam's body experienced decay and immortality was gone. Now mankind has a mortal body. **Our physical body is temporary.** At the rapture, believers in Christ will receive a new, eternal body.

THE SOUL

Our soul is comprised of our mind, will and emotions.

Our mind: is the battlefield. The enemy attacks our minds and uses people and circumstances to pollute us with ungodly thoughts such as fear, worries, doubt, unbelief. Our minds - the thoughts we think - is where transformation and victory begins (Romans 12:2).

Our will: God has given us a free will, we choose what we do, say and think. Because we have a sinful nature, our thoughts, words and actions can be influenced by the sinful nature. As born-again Christians, we must be influenced by the Holy Spirit, this is God's plan and the reason He has given us His Holy Spirit.

Our emotions

Thoughts create emotions and emotions create behaviour and attitudes. This is why God instructs us to reject any thought not coming from God (2 Corinthians 10:5) and renew our minds with His Word.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (Wuest translation)

"Now, may the God of peace himself consecrate you, every part of each one of you, to His worship and service, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved in their entirety blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who gives you the divine summons [into salvation], who also will do it. Brethren, be praying definitely for us."

God's Word clearly teaches that we are three-part beings, yet very few Christians have an understanding of spirit, soul, and body in their everyday lives. Most people actually believe they're only made up of body and soul. They confuse soul and spirit as being basically the same thing. Therefore, on a day-to-day level, they only acknowledge a physical part and an emotional, mental, inner part (which most people refer to as our "personality") and they fail to discern the spiritual realm.

Ephesians 1:18-20 (Wuest translation)

"the eyes of your heart being in an enlightened state with a view to your knowing what is the hope of His calling, what is the wealth of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the superabounding greatness of His inherent power to us who are believing ones as measured by the operative energy of the manifested strength of His might, which might was operative in the Christ when He raised Him from among the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,"

You can experience depression, anger, and bitterness while possessing God's love, joy and peace in your spirit. This is mixing light and darkness. We should have only God's light in our whole beings.

Galatians 5:22 (Wuest translation)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Against such things as these there is no law."

Believers should not live like lost people who are trapped in the carnal, physical world.

Ephesians 4:17 (Wuest translation)

"This, therefore, I am saying and solemnly declaring in the Lord, that no longer are you to be ordering your behavior as the Gentiles order their behavior in the futility of their mind,"

The Holy Spirit dwells within our spirit so that we can – by means of His mighty power – have our body and soul conformed to God's Word. As we renew our minds and act upon the Word, we see God's transforming power constantly and gradually operating in our lives.