

SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY



Lecture 3

Spirit, Soul & Body

GOD'S LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US

1 John 4:16-17 (Wuest translation)

“And as for us, we have known experientially the love which God has in our case, and we have that knowledge at present, and we have believed and at present maintain that attitude. God is, as to His nature, love, and he who dwells in the aforementioned love in God is dwelling, and God in him is dwelling. In this has been brought to completion the aforementioned love which is in us [produced by the Holy Spirit], which love exists in its completed state, resulting in our having unreservedness of speech at the day of the judgment, because just as that One is, also, as for us, we are in this world.”

God's love will empower you to experience the life of Christ. If you do not embrace and experience God's love, you will struggle to have a proper understanding of spirit, soul and body. As a result, you will be ruled by your body and your soul (the flesh) instead of the Holy Spirit and will cut yourself off from experiencing God's life in you.

The love of God in us brings freedom and melts fear, unbelief and any other ungodly presence in us. We need to acknowledge and experience God's powerful, divine and sacrificial love.

1 John 4:18 (Wuest translation)

“Fear does not exist in the sphere of the aforementioned love. Certainly, this aforementioned love which exists in its completed state throws fear outside, because this fear has a penalty, and the one who fears has not been brought to completion in the sphere of this love, and is not in that state at present”.

When you were first “born again,” you believed Jesus Christ died on the Cross and paid for all your sins and sicknesses, and Christ came into your heart and gave you a brand new spirit and the gift of His righteousness. In that moment, your spirit was immediately sealed by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of preservation.

Ephesians 1:13 (Wuest translation)

“in whom also, as for you, having heard the word of the truth, the good news of your salvation, in who also having believed, you were sealed with the Spirit of the promise, the Holy Spirit”.

When you fail in any area of your life after being saved, the rottenness, uncleanness and defilement that affects your body and soul cannot penetrate your spirit. This ‘Holy Spirit seal’ keeps the good in and the bad out.

If we do not understand that the Holy Spirit sealed our born-again spirit, our conscience will eventually cause us to feel as though we've lost the righteousness and true holiness in which our born-again spirit was created. Our conscience, with its knowledge of right and wrong, constantly bears witness to our mind about our thoughts and actions. If we aren't careful, we'll allow the knowledge of our failures in the flesh to cause us to come under guilt and condemnation.

We might start thinking: "Okay, when I was born again, God gave me a brand-new start, but I've been failing since then, again and again." You may confess, try hard and eventually get back to where you feel like, "Now I'm back on track and everything's fine!" ...But it won't be long before your conscience shows you something else. If you go up and down like this, day after day, year after year, you will never experience God's peace, joy and life. The reality is: you are entertaining the flesh!

Your spirit was sealed when you were born again. Sin and its effects cannot enter into your spirit. When you sin, your spirit does not participate. It retains its original holiness and purity and will for eternity.

If you understand spirit, soul and body, the interpretation of 1 John 3:9 becomes obvious,

1 John 3:9 (Wuest translation)

"Everyone who has been born out of God with the present result that he is a born-one of God does not habitually commit sin because His seed remains in him. And he is not able to habitually sin, because out of God he has been born with the present result that he is a born-one of God".

Your spirit is the only part of you that was born of God at salvation. Your soul and body have been purchased, but not yet redeemed. Therefore, your spirit cannot sin even though your body and soul can. This means your performance cannot affect the purity and holiness of your spirit.

This truth is crucial to your relationship with God. If you tie His acceptance of you to your performance, you will always feel as though you fall short. You might do better than certain other people, but your own conscience will condemn you. **The Holy Spirit will always help us to avoid temptation and sin.**

When you understand spirit, soul and body, you know it was your spirit that changed. No matter how you're performing, you can always approach God in your born again spirit. Praise God!

When Scripture mentions us being seated in heavenly places it means that our spirit, indwelt by the Holy Spirit is already in heavenly places. God sees us right there.

Ephesians 2:5-7 (Wuest translation)

"and we, being dead with respect to our trespasses, made us alive together with the Christ; by grace have you been saved completely in past time, with the present result that you are in a state of salvation which persists through present time,⁶ and raised us with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that He might exhibit for His own glory in the ages that will pile themselves upon another in continuous succession, the surpassing wealth of His grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus".

When you sin as a Christian, it affects your physical body, mind and emotions. Satan has an opportunity against your physical and soulish realms, but your born-again spirit remains permanently sealed.

Your spirit is as righteous at this moment as it will ever be throughout all eternity.

You are the righteousness of God in Christ by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.