

SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY



Lecture 7

Spirit, Soul & Body

OUR SPIRITUAL MIRROR

If we want to know what our physical bodies look like, we check our reflection in a mirror. The reflected image tells us if we're having a "bad hair" day or have bags under our eyes or whether our make-up or outfit looks good. Though we're not actually looking at ourselves, we trust the reflection the mirror provides and we don't question it. In James 1:23-25 we learn God has provided us with a spiritual mirror to help us know our true identity as a new creation in Christ. We cannot use our five senses (our physical body) to gauge the state of our souls (how we're feeling etc). In the same way, we cannot rely on our bodies or our souls to gauge the state of our spirits.

James 1:23-25 (Wuest translation)

"²³ because if, as is the case, anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, this one is like a man attentively considering in a mirror the face with which he was born. ²⁴ For he took one look at himself and was off, and he immediately forgot what sort of a person he was. ²⁵ But he who with eagerness and concentration has pored over the perfect law, the law of liberty, and has continued in it, not having been a hearer who forgets but a doer who works, this person shall be prospered spiritually in his doing."

These verses teach us that the only way to know our new identity, is to look into the Word of God and trust the 'reflection' we see revealed in Scripture, with the same unquestioning trust we place in our natural mirrors. While this passage relates to putting into action the word of God, it is important to realise this also implies being a 'do-er' in the sense of embracing our whole new identity in Christ. **Right believing always leads to right living;** we will only become 'do-ers' of the Word as we fully embrace our new identity and living according to who we truly are as new creations in Christ.

OUR NEW CREATION SPIRIT

1. Identical to Jesus

1 John 4:17 (Wuest translation)

"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."

The 'tenses' used in this verse are critical! As Jesus is **[present tense]** right now, seated in the heavenlies, we **are [present tense] in this world**. The Word says now, presently, here on earth - it's not talking about heaven in the future. As we have discussed in previous lectures, to understand this verse we need to correctly discern between spirit, soul and body. Obviously, our bodies are not yet transformed, and our souls are still being conformed to the image of Christ. This verse is therefore describing our born again, new creation spirit. Right now, on this earth, you are, in your spirit, **identical to Jesus**. Identical! **Your spirit, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is identical to Jesus Himself, in all His glory, power and perfection.**

2. Righteous and holy

Our new creation spirit - “the new self” - was “created in righteousness and holiness”.

Ephesians 4:20-24 (Wuest translation)

“But as for you, not in this manner did you learn the Christ, since, indeed, as is the case, you heard and in Him were taught just as truth is in Jesus, that you have put off once for all with reference to your former manner of life the old self who is being corrupted according to the passionate desires of deceit; moreover, that you are being constantly renewed with reference to the spirit of your mind; and that you have put on once for all the new self who after God was created in righteousness and holiness of truth.”

In our born-again spirits we are as pure as Christ is because His perfect righteousness has been given to each of us. In 1 Corinthians 1:30 we read,

1 Corinthians 1:30 (Wuest translation)

“But as for you, out from Him as a source are you in Christ Jesus who became wisdom for us from God, both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,”

Jesus Himself literally became our righteousness! We need to recognise and acknowledge our true self as revealed in God’s mirror: right now, in your spirit, you are as righteous and holy as Jesus Himself!

3. One with Jesus

1 Corinthians 6:17 (Wuest translation)

“But he who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit [with Him].”

The Greek word translation ‘one’ here means ‘a singular one to the exclusion of another.’ It’s much deeper than mere similarity (ie. being joined together as ‘one’ in purpose). This word speaks of complete union. In your spirit, you are completely one with Jesus!

We see this truth expressed in Hebrews 3:14 also,

Hebrews 3:14 (Wuest translation)

“for we have become participators of Messiah and as a present result are participators of Him, [and that is shown] if we hold the beginning of our assured expectation steadfast to the end.”

At the moment your spirit was born again and became a new creation, you became a “participator of Messiah,” or ‘partaker of Christ’ (NASB). Everything that Christ is, you are and share in, in your new creation spirit. This means your spirit is complete and lacking in nothing (see also Colossians 2:9-10). Your spirit has been “completely filled full” with all the power, righteousness, holiness, peace, joy, patience, health, grace and love that Jesus Himself possesses.

EXPERIENCING SUPERNATURAL LIFE

A mere intellectual knowledge of your new identity in Christ won’t instantaneously change your life. We need to learn how to draw on the resources God has placed in us through the Holy Spirit. This starts with acknowledging “every good thing in us”. We need to believe and declare what God reveals in Scripture, and then living according to the spiritual resources we have in Christ (i.e. experiential knowledge).

Philemon 1:6 (Wuest translation)

“...praying that the contribution of your faith...become effective in the sphere of a full and perfect experiential knowledge of every good thing in us with a view to [the glory of] Christ.”

Your born-again spirit is as perfect and complete as it will ever be for all eternity. God calls you to now live according to who you truly are. LET’S LEARN TO BE SPIRITUAL PEOPLE!