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THE TRIUNE MAN

DR. DAVE LUELOFF

The Triune Man

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HYPOTHESIS

God created man as a triune being – body, soul and spirit. As we rightly divide the Word of truth, we understand how the body, soul and spirit work both together and separately.

Grasping truths concerning the workings of the body, soul and spirit helps us to overcome sin and allows us to be receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Triune Man

Trichotomy

God – A Triune Being

God is a triune being. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and yet there is only one God.

The Bible teaches three distinct, separate personalities:

Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”

2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be with you all.*”

1 John 5:7 “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.”

Matthew 3:16-17 “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The Bible also teaches that these three are one. There is a Tri-unity in the Godhead. We find this taught in the New Testament:

1 John 5:7 “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

It is also found in the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD...”

Moses wrote the book of Deuteronomy in Hebrew. It states: “*Jehovah* our *Elohim* is one *Jehovah*.” Jehovah is the singular name for “God.”

“*Elohim* is a plural word. When *Elohim* is used to refer to the One True God, it is

a plurality in unity. Some scholars object to the idea of the Trinity being found in the word *Elohim*. It is only fair to point out that this term, with the usual ending for all masculine nouns in the plural, is sometimes used with a singular pronoun, 'I am your Elohim.' Yet the word in this singular form is not full enough to set forth all that is intended. Trench reminds us that when '*Elohim* is employed to designate the one true and only God, it has for the most part, the usual construction of a noun in the singular number; that is, it is joined with a verb or pronoun which is also singular. The last two letters of the title *im* represent a plural ending.'

Without a doubt, a great 'mystery of godliness' is latent in *Elohim*. It is a repository of truth concerning the Persons in the Godhead in essential unity, and a mode of expressing the abundance and diversity of transcendent attributes combined in Deity."¹

As stated, when referring to *God*, the Hebrew will use *Elohim*, a plural subject with a singular verb. An example is Genesis 1:1 (God created); *Elohim*, a plural subject, has *created* as its verb and *created* is a singular verb in the Hebrew. The same is true in Genesis 1:26 (God said), where *Elohim* is plural and the verb *said* is singular. This is grammatically incorrect but it is theologically right. This is atypical, for in the Old Testament, when the Bible refers to the heathen gods, *elohim* will have a plural verb.

The Hebrew language in the Old Testament uses a plural word when describing God as *Creator*:

¹ Herbert Lockyer, All the Divine Names and Titles in the Bible, p.6

Ecclesiastes 12:1 “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them...”

This word used for *Creator* in the Hebrew is a plural word.

Isaiah 54:5 “For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.”

In this passage, the word *Maker* is also a plural word. In both of these instances, it is evident that the Creator(s) is/are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

“By no means is the Old Testament witness to the plurality of Persons in the Godhead restricted to that which may be derived from the plural form of *Elohim* and its associated forms of speech. Definite distinction is made in the second Psalm between Jehovah and His Messiah (vs.2). In this Psalm Jehovah states, ‘Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion’ (vs.6), and the Son, who is the King, declares, ‘Jehovah said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.’ Similarly, a distinction is drawn in many passages between Jehovah and Jehovah’s Servant, or the Angel of Jehovah. Quite in keeping with the truth that God is one Essence in which three Persons subsist, is the fact that the Angel of Jehovah is at times One other than Jehovah, and at other times He is Jehovah Himself.

That the First Person is *Jehovah*, *Elohim*, and *Adonai* need not be pointed out. Yet it is equally true that these names are applied to the Second Person. He is called *El* (Isa. 9:6) and *Jehovah* (Ps. 68:18, Isa.6:1-3, 45:21). So, also, the Spirit is called *Jehovah* (Isa. 11:2, literally *Spirit of Jehovah*; cf. *Judg. 15:14*), and

the Spirit is *Elohim* (Ex. 31:3, literally *Spirit of Elohim*).”²

The New Testament shows us that Jesus is the Creator of heaven and earth:

John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Colossians 1:12-13 “Giving thanks unto the Father...Who hath...translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son...”

Colossians 1:16 “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him...”

The reason that Jesus is also the Creator is because Jesus is God:

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Romans 9:5 “Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 1:8 “But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.”

Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...”

1 John 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

Jesus is the express image of God, made in the likeness of man:

Colossians 1:15 “Who is the image of the invisible God...”

2 Corinthians 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

Philippians 2:5-8 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the **form of God**, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was

² Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology, Vol I, p.298-299

made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Hebrews 1:2-3 “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the **express image** of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high...”

Thus, Christ was made in the likeness of men and was also the express image of God!

A.T. Robertson tell us the definition from this Greek word for *express image* is:

“*Charaktêr* is an old word from *charassô*, to cut, to scratch, to mark. It first was the agent (note ending =*têr*) or tool that did the marking, then the mark or impress made, the exact reproduction.”³

Not only are Jesus and the Father alike, but Jesus and the Holy Spirit are also alike. Jesus said:

John 14:16-17 : “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another** Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

The Greek word for *another* means another of the same kind. Hence the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are just like each other – all three are God. Also noted in this verse is the use of the word *para, klhton*. . Friberg gives us the definition for this word:

para, klhtoj *parakletos* “A verbal adjective with a basic meaning *one called alongside to help*; (1) as a legal technical term, as one who appears in another's behalf *advocate, defender, intercessor* (1J 2.1); (2) as one who gives protection, help, and security *helper, comforter, counselor* (JN 14.16)”⁴

This word *parakletos* is both used for the Holy Spirit in John 14:16 and also for the Lord Jesus Christ in I John 2:1). Hence they are co-equal as being God.

³ A.T. Robertson, Notes from Bible Works 4.0

⁴ Friberg's Greek Dictionary from Bible Works 4.0

There are three distinct and separate personalities, yet these three are one. There is only one God – a triune God.

Man – A Triune Being

Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”

God has created mankind. Evolution is a false theory. The 1st and 2nd laws of thermodynamics prove evolution to be false.

1. All processes involve interchanges and conversions of an entity called energy, with the total energy remaining constant. Scientifically, this is called the *law of conservation of energy*, or the First Law of Thermodynamics.

The first chapter of Genesis describes this creation, and it should be stressed as strongly as possible that it is only in the Bible that we can possibly obtain any information about the methods of creation, the order of creation, the duration of creation, or any of the other details of creation. Since, according to both Scripture and the First Law of the science, nothing is now being created, therefore the scientific study of present processes can reveal nothing about creation except that it must have taken place. This is the most fundamental fallacy in the evolutionary theory. Evolution assumes that these present processes are the same processes by which all things have developed from primeval chaos into their present complexity. Both the Word of God and the First Law of science say otherwise.

2. **All** processes manifest a **tendency toward decay and disintegration**, with a net increase in what is called *entropy*, or state of randomness or disorder, of the system. This is called the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

The Second Law demonstrates that there must have been a beginning, or otherwise the universe would already be dead. *The First Law demonstrates that the universe could not have begun itself, since none of its processes create anything.* Thus the only logical conclusion is that "in the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth."

Furthermore, they tell us plainly that the processes of nature are conservative and disintegrative, not innovative and integrative, as the evolutionist maintains. There is a universal process of change operating in the world, and often the evolutionist tries to define evolution merely as change. However, he really means a *directional change*, whereby molecules slowly change into men over eons of time. The real law of change, however, is one of decay, not of growth, a change "down" instead

of “up.” Thus, the laws of thermodynamics sharply conflict with the philosophy of evolution. The latter is at best a religious faith, not science.

The Second Law is **the law of entropy - the law of disorder**. It is found in the Bible:

Psalm 102:25-26: “Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens *are* the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed...”

All natural processes generate entropy, a measure of disorder. It is a law of progressive disorganization, of the complete disappearance of the initial condition. *If things are going from a state of order to disorder, then it must have started off in a higher order - creation.* **All** processes manifest a **tendency toward decay and disintegration**, with a net increase in what is called *entropy*, or state of randomness or disorder, of the system.

Science speaks of a *missing* link, however, there are three other missing links that they ignore. Missing are the links from:

- 1) Nothing to something
- 2) Something to life
- 3) Life to consciousness

Man did not evolve from an ameba to a monkey and then to a human being. God, a Triune Being, created man, *in our image, after our likeness*, as a triune being. Man has three parts: a body, a soul, and a spirit. Each are three distinct parts and yet these three comprise one individual.

The Bible teaches in I Thessalonians 5:23 that there are three distinct parts to the human being:

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We all know that the body separates from the soul at death, but the Bible also teaches that the soul and the spirit are two different parts:

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the **dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Although the soul and spirit are not separated as the body and soul are, they are still two very distinct parts with very different roles in one’s life.

The creation of man is found as follows:

Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

It is interesting to note in this verse that:

- 1) *Jehovah Elohim* formed man
- 2) It was the breath of *lives* (life is a plural word in Hebrew)

“As soon as the breath of life, which became man’s spirit, came into contact with man’s body, the soul was produced. Hence, the soul is the combination of man’s body and spirit. God breathed directly into the nostrils of man the fullness of His personality. This in-breathing was an endless life. Man is now a creature with an everlasting existence.

‘Formed man of dust of the ground’ refers to man’s body; *‘breathed into his nostril the breath of life’* refers to man’s spirit as it came from God; and *‘man became a living soul’* refers to man’s soul when the body was quickened by the spirit and brought into being a living and self-conscious man. A complete man is a trinity – the composite of spirit, soul, and body.”⁵

⁵ Watchman Nee, Spiritual Man, p.23-24

“This in-breathing was an endless life – a life not subject to death, even though, as a penalty for sin, the body dies. Such is the character and duration of God-breathed human life.”⁶

“The body of a man may be thought of as that portion of his being that possesses consciousness. With the body, one sees and hears and speaks; it is the bodily function to taste and to smell; the body is sensitive to pain. It operates generally under the control of the soul, through the mind.”⁷

Made in the Likeness and Image of God

A) Man is made in the likeness and image of God:

Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

“No divine creation or production could be inaugurated on a higher plane than that the thing thus formed should be conformed to the *image* and *likeness* of God.”⁸

B) Fallen man is now in a sinful state:

Psalms 51:5 “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

C) Man, after the fall, is also made in the likeness and image of Adam:

Genesis 5:3 “And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth...”

D) Fallen man still retains some of his ‘made in the image of God’ quality:

⁶ Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, Vol. II, p. 144-145

⁷ E. Schuyler English, Things Surely To Be Believed, p. 169

⁸ Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, p. 161

Genesis 9:6 “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

1 Corinthians 11:7 “For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.”

James 3:9 “Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.”

“To sin against man either by murder or by slander is reprobable on the grounds of the divine image being resident in man. A sacredness appertains to human life. Man must respect his fellow man, not on the ground of kinship, but on the ground of the exalted truth that human life belongs to God. To injure man is to injure one who bears the image of God.”⁹

E) The death which came from the fall of man involves the body, the soul and the spirit of man. Notice the promise of:

Genesis 2:17 “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

- 1) The **spirit** died on the very day they ate. Their sin had separated them from God. (Eph 2:1, Isa. 59:1-2)
- 2) The **body** became a dying entity. They were in the state of dying.
- 3) The **soul** was going to die an eternal death. The Bible calls this ‘the second death.’ (Rev. 21:8)

F) Salvation restores within the body, the soul, and the spirit, the likeness and image of which we lost in the fall of man.

Salvation restores us to the image of God:

- 1) At salvation, the **spirit** *has been* made ‘after the image of Him.’

Colossians 3:10 “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him...”

⁹ Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, p. 168

2) After salvation, our **soul** *is being* changed into the image of Christ as we look at the glory of God in the Bible.

II Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

3) Our **body** *will be* changed into the image of Christ at the rapture.

Romans 8:29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

1 Corinthians 15:51 “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, (die) but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible (dead in Christ) shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal (alive at rapture) shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Our spirit is dead, our body is dying, and it will culminate when our soul will suffer an eternal death. However, for those who have trusted Christ as Savior, it is a far different story. Our spirit is made in the image of Christ, our soul is being made into the image of Christ, and our body will be wholly restored into the likeness and image of Christ – Who is ‘the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person’ (image of God - Heb. 1:3).

1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Philippians 3:21 “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

We shall be like Him (likeness and image of Him), and He is like God!

G) What was done away ‘in Adam,’ is restored ‘in Christ.’

Romans 5:12-21 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as *it was* by one that sinned, so *is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Trichotomy or Dichotomy

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit....”

“Some hold that man is *dichotomous*, that is, that he is composed simply of just two parts – body and soul. Others hold that man is *trichotomous*, that his component parts comprise three elements - body, soul and spirit. There is Scripture, it appears, to support both views. Dichotomy is truth, but incomplete truth, as we view it: man *is* dichotomous, in that he consists of the material and the immaterial, called in Genesis 2, the body and the soul. Yet he is trichotomous, for the immaterial element, called collectively ‘the soul,’ is itself composed of two distinctive parts, the soul and the spirit.”¹⁰

It is extremely critical to understand the dividing of the soul and spirit. It is

¹⁰ E. Schuyler English, Things Surely To Be Believed, p. 171

much more than a doctrinal issue between dichotomy and trichotomy. It is necessary for a believer to be able to 'walk in the spirit.' Many believers either ignore the idea of walking in the spirit or they have a twisted view of it. To be able to walk in the spirit, one must be able to understand what the spirit of man is and how it functions. Although some already practice walking in the spirit, as they better understand the reality of their spirit and its purposes, they will be able to have a more mature spiritual life.

We keenly realize that the flesh and its' lusts wants to reign in our life. There will also be a conflict between God and us; it is a 'personality clash.' God has an intellect, emotions and a will, and so do we. This may be referred to as a battle over our 'self.' Ultimately, the true test of our Christian life will be ascertained at the Judgment Seat of Christ. A life that allows the flesh or the soul to reign is a selfish and carnal life.

Many mistake a sensual, emotional, and shallow walk for a spiritual life. One may have a thorough grasp on the Bible, be a walking Bible encyclopedia, and yet still live carnally by allowing self to rule.

As God divided the light from the darkness, even so the soul and spirit are divided. We shall now delve into the details of the triune man.

Man was created in the likeness and image of God. He sinned in the garden and is now a fallen creature. Salvation through Christ can restore what was lost. At salvation, God inhabits the believer and God and man can commune together through the Holy Spirit indwelling the Spirit of man.

Next we will examine salvation in regards to the triune man.

Salvation

Salvation and the Spirit of Man

Before salvation, the spirit in man is dead. We can liken our spirit to a telephone line. Our line (spirit) to God has been cut off due to sin. When one receives Christ as Savior, that line (spirit) is hooked back up.

Ephesians 2:1 “And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins...(quickened means *to be made alive*)”

An unsaved person does not have communion with God. Not only is the spirit dead, but we are enemies of God and His wrath abides upon us.

Romans 5:10 “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son...”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

At salvation, the Holy Spirit gives birth to the spirit of man:

John 3:5-8 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The **wind** bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

Jesus described the evidence of the new birth to be like the wind. It is unseen, yet clearly felt. Even so, the spirit of man and the work of the Holy Spirit within that spirit is as evident as the wind.

As it takes a male and a female to reproduce, even so it takes both the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to give new birth:

1 Peter 1:23 “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

The ‘water’ in this verse refers to the Word of God:

Ephesians 5:26 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”

Thus salvation comes as a result of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God giving birth to a person’s soul. Have you been born again? It is a necessity. You must receive Christ as your Savior as God does the work of giving new birth.

Salvation and the Soul of Man

The soul of man consists of the mind, the emotions and the will. When salvation occurs, all three parts of the soul are active.

A) The mind must know that Jesus paid for our sins:

Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

B) The will must yield to God:

Matthew 16:24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

C) The emotions will also take part. This can be a very emotional time or it can be unemotional. Emotions as a part of your soul are the weakest link. A believer must be careful not to mistake emotionalism with spirituality.

Surrender is Necessary

Hebrews 4:12-14 “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.”

The picture given us in these verses is one where the priest is using a knife to divide the joints and marrow of the sacrifice that is laid on the altar. Our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, divides the soul and spirit by the Word of God which is sharper than any two-edged sword. All the thoughts and intents of the heart are naked and open to Him. The only way for this process to occur, and for us to understand this dividing asunder of soul and spirit, is for us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God.

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*”

Psalm 118:27 “God *is* the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, *even* unto the horns of the altar.”

Salvation occurs when one surrenders to God and trusts the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her own personal Savior. This involves repenting of your sin and putting your faith in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as payment for your sins.

Acts 20:21 “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Acts 16:30-31 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

God then indwells that person with the Holy Spirit and desires to lead that person in a spiritual walk. Thus, man is a dwelling place for God, and within the spirit of man, God and man can commune.

Man - A Temple Where God May Dwell

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

The temple of the Old Testament pictures the triune man; the court corresponds to the body; the Holy Place corresponds with the soul; and the Holy of Holies corresponds with the spirit of man. It is within the Holy of Holies that God dwelt. It is there that God communed with man. It was on the mercy seat that God led His people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The spirit of man is the inner sanctum and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

God and Man Interact

John 4:24 “God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.”

God is a spirit and man is primarily a soul (moving within a body). How can these two very different beings commune with each other? God in His infinite wisdom has worked this out.

God is a *Spirit that has a soul* (personality – mind, emotion, will), so that He can communicate with man. Man is primarily a *soul that has a spirit*, so that he (man) can commune with God. God communicates with us in our spirit.

Is your body a dwelling place for God? Have you trusted the precious blood of Christ for salvation? It is the only way to begin a real relationship with God.

1 Peter 1:18-19 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...”

You can receive Christ as your Savior by praying to Him right now and asking Him to forgive you and opening your heart to Him. God gave His only begotten Son, and He (Jesus) shed His blood to pay for your sins. I gave my heart to Him at the age of twenty and the results have been life-changing.

Don't delay. Trust Christ today. Jesus stated, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

The Spirit

The Spirit of Man

The spirit of man is a substantial, personal and yet invisible part of your being. The spirit, like the soul, has thoughts, feelings and desires. Notice these characteristics of the spirit of man in the following verses.

Matthew 26:41 "...The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Mark 2:8 "And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves..."

Mark 8:12 "And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith..."

Luke 1:47 "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

John 11:33 "...he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled..."

John 13:21 "When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit..."

Acts 18:25 "...and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught..."

Acts 17:16 "...his spirit was stirred in him..."

Acts 19:21 "After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit..."

2 Corinthians 7:13 "... because his spirit was refreshed by you all."

It is in your spirit that God speaks to you and communes with you. There are three parts to the spirit – intuition, communion and conscience. While these three aspects to the spirit are distinguished, they are clearly intertwined and entwined.

The Bible commands to walk in the Spirit:

Galatians 5:16 "*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

This is accomplished by following the Holy Spirit's leading in our spirit. As the Holy Spirit is obeyed, the Christian grows. Hence, it is extremely critical for the Christian to understand the relationship between his spirit and the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit - Intuition

In our spirit (for the saved person), which is the inner sanctum of our being, resides an utterless, soundless voice agreeing or disagreeing with us.

This is the intuition of the spirit. Emotions come from the soul, but this intuition comes from the spirit where the Holy Spirit resides.

Romans 8:9 "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

The Holy Spirit speaks to the child of God by intuition. This intuition is evidenced by the knowledge that we are saved. How do we know we are saved? We know and are keenly aware of our salvation by the intuition of the Spirit within our spirit:

Romans 8:15-16 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God..."

This word *Abba* is a transliterated Greek word. It is an old word that means 'to croak like a raven.' It is an inarticulate cry or sound. Thus, the Christian cries, *Abba* - a natural cry of a child; an inner groaning; an uttered yearning; for the Father.

Jesus compared the new birth (being born of the Spirit) to the wind.

John 3:8 “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

You cannot see the wind, but you just know it is there because you can feel it. Such is the intuition of the Spirit. To the believer, the new birth is as undeniable and as evident as the wind.

Our emotions, our feelings, and the devil and his influence, can come from the mind or the soul. But this utterless, soundless voice comes from the inner sanctum of the body, which is found in your spirit.

This intuition will lead you to the right doctrine.

John 14:16-17 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

1 John 2:20 “But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.”

1 John 2:27 “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”

This intuition gives you discernment.

1 John 2:18-19 “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they

had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

1 John 2:21 “I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.”

1 John 2:26 “These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.”

The Holy Spirit gives intuition in your spirit to lead you into truth, sound doctrine, and the discerning of spiritual things.

Since the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth and ‘thy word is truth,’ the Holy Spirit will never lead you into something that is contrary to the Word of God.

An example of this is:

Galatians 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

There are two types of intuition – direct and sought.

A) Direct - an example:

God speaks to you to witness to someone. As you ask God if this is from Him, the burden will increase or it will wane. If it increases, it is likely to be the intuition of the spirit from the Holy Spirit.

B) Sought – an example:

Should I buy this new car? We must be careful as emotions and self will interfere with this still small voice. Once again, the intuition for the leading of the Holy Spirit must come from within the inner sanctum of your spirit.

The intuition of the spirit begins with God and reaches to your spirit. The

soul begins with emotions or reasoning and does not reach your spirit.

The Spirit - Communion

II Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.”

We communicate within the material world (people) with our body and soul, but we communicate within the spiritual world (God) with our spirit. We commune with God by intuition and communion.

The ‘kindergarten’ experience of this is a ‘know-so’ salvation (Rom. 8:16). As we grow and mature in the faith, this process of communing with God, also known as walking with God, becomes a daily event.

We are to ‘know God.’

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know him...”

John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

1 John 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

We get to know God as we allow His Word to work in our life. We also get to know Him by communion with the Holy Spirit in our spirit.

A) The things that God has prepared for us have not entered our body, nor our soul. These things are not revealed to us by pondering or thinking (using our mind, soul).

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

B) It is revealed by His Spirit through communion with our spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:10 “But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

C) To understand a man, you have to be a man. Even so, the things of God are only known by the Spirit of God (I.E. Angels do not understand salvation. They desire to look into salvation, but do not understand it because they are angels and not sinners).

1 Corinthians 2:11-12 “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

D) If we do not understand our spirit, we neglect a spiritual walk. We must be keenly receptive to the Holy Spirit speaking to our spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12 “Now we have received...the spirit which is of God; that we might know...”

God has had many ways that He has led His children:

- 1) Pillar of cloud / fire (Ex. 13:21-22)
- 2) Sound in the mulberry trees (II Sam 5:22-25)
- 3) Still small voice (II Kl. 19:11-13)
- 4) Urim and Thummim (Jud. 20:27-28, Num. 27:21)
- 5) Dreams and Visions (I Sam 28:6, Dan. 1:17)
- 6) Voice of God (Ex. 20:1-3)
- 7) Son of God (Heb. 1:1-2)

God wants to commune with you in your spirit. Here are some Biblical examples of the Holy Spirit's leading.

Acts 13:2 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”

Acts 16:6-7 “Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.”

Galatians 5:16 “*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...”

Hebrews 12:5 “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him...”

How does one know, ‘when thou art rebuked of him?’ This is only known by the communion of the Holy Ghost. The Bible commands us to ‘quench not the Spirit.’ When God communes with us by the Holy Spirit speaking to our spirit, we are compelled to obey.

The Spirit – Conscience

Intuition and communion only occur in the lives of the saved because they possess the indwelling Holy Spirit. However, conscience works in both the lives of the saved and the unsaved.

Adam and Eve were created in innocence. Conscience was at work in the life of Adam and Eve after their sin. We can witness the work of conscience in the following dialog:

Genesis 3:7-11 “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”

Conscience was at work - they knew and they hid themselves. How did they know – *who told thee thou wast naked?* Conscience told them!

Today, babies are born in innocence, but as conscience awakes, they become accountable for their actions and become fallen creatures, in need of a Savior:

Romans 7:9 “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.”

Let us take a closer look at this verse:

I was alive without the law once (innocence), when the commandment came, sin revived (conscience awakened), and I died (fallen sinful state).

“Conscience is not a separate faculty, like intellect, sensibility, and will, but rather a mode in which these faculties act. Conscience is a knowing of self in connection with a moral standard or law. It gives us a conscious presence of a supreme Personality to whom we as persons feel ourselves accountable.

It judges:

- 1) This is right (or, wrong)
- 2) I ought (or, I ought not)

Thus, conscience is discriminative and impulsive. Conscience deals with right, as taste deals with the beautiful.”¹¹

Conscience is a part of the spirit of man:

The Bible speaks of conscience:

1 Corinthians 8:7-12 “Howbeit *there is* not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat *it* as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But

¹¹ Augustus Strong, Systematic Theology, p.498

when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.”

1 Corinthians 10:25-29 “Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, *that* eat, asking no question for conscience sake: For the earth *is* the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. If any of them that believe not bid you *to a feast*, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake. But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth *is* the Lord's, and the fulness thereof: Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another *man's* conscience?”

A) Conscience's function is to condemn sin.

Genesis 3:6-11 “And when the woman saw...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and...her husband with her; and he did eat...and they knew that they *were* naked...and they heard the voice of the LORD God... and Adam and his wife hid themselves...and he (Adam) said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked... and he (God) said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked?”

Hebrews 10:1-2 “For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.”

Romans 2:15 “Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another...”

B) Conscience's function is to convict of sin.

John 8:9 “And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last...”

John 4:29 “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? (Conviction exposes all sin)”

John 15:22 “If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.”

Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

Hebrews 9:9 “Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience...”

C) Conscience, if ignored, becomes defiled.

Titus 1:15 “Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.”

D) Continual rejection of conscience leads to it being seared.

1 Timothy 4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron...”

E) Conscience is the part of the spirit that leads to salvation.

Hebrews 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

“Our salvation is confirmed by the fact that the precious blood has quieted this voice of condemnation.”¹²

F) Conscience justifies the saint that he/she is living right.

Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”

Acts 24:16 “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and *toward* men.”

Romans 9:1 “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost...”

1 Timothy 1:5 “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned...”

1 Timothy 1:19 “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck...”

¹² Watchman Nee, The Spiritual Man, Vol. 2, p.108

1 Peter 3:16 “Having a good conscience...”

G) Our conscience demands more as we grow in the Lord.

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

As we walk in the light, God reveals to us more light. Hence, conscience will work to different degrees to different Christians depending upon their maturity in the Lord. There are different degrees of maturity:

1 John 2:9-13 “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light...but he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness...I write unto you, little children... I write unto you, fathers... I write unto you, young men... I write unto you, little children...”

‘To walk in the light’ refers to being right with God in relation to how much light that person has. One need not worry about what he does not know, if he but completely follows the light he has been given up to that time.

We need to be reminded that God is our standard of holiness, not conscience. Conscience only tells us that we have fully obeyed the dictates of it according to the knowledge we have. Thus, we have arrived at the immediate goal, not the ultimate goal. We are compelled to pray as the Psalmist did:

Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

It is imperative for the Christian to understand his spirit and to learn to commune with God in his spirit. The spirit is a separate entity, and as one matures in Christ, he learns to walk with God in his spirit.

The Soul

The Soul – Our Psyche

The Greek word for soul is *ych* (psyche). The soul of man is a very complex and intricate part of man. It includes the mind, the will and emotions. Each of these three areas makes up our 'psyche'. Here are some things that the Bible teaches which we would not know if it were not told us.

A) The soul is eternal.

Matthew 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

B) The soul looks like a body.

In the following passage, the soul has eyes and a tongue; suffers pain; remembers; and has concerns for others.

Luke 16:22-28 "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."

C) The soul has value and can be lost.

Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

II Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost..."

D) The soul can be saved.

1 Peter 1:9-10 “Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you...”

Our soul consists of three parts: our emotions, the will, and the mind.

Emotions

Emotions are the part of the soul that involves feelings. Our emotions change as our feelings change. Many various external forces can affect feelings. A life lived by emotions is a life that is unstable and without principle.

Faith is based upon facts. To exercise faith, it must be based upon the Word of God, the will of God, or the leading of the Spirit. Emotions often lack a basis and therefore we do not base spiritual decisions upon them. We must be careful to realize that we are easily swayed and manipulated by emotions.

God desires proper actions, not feelings. An example is found in Malachi.

Malachi 2:13-14 “And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth *it* with good will at your hand. Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.”

Emotions are God-given for us to laugh, cry, grieve, and rejoice. Emotions allow our soul to deal with problems. We can allow emotions to express our innermost feelings which helps us to have a healthy approach to life. As we release emotions, we also release pent-up feelings. This allows us to grieve over the death of a loved one. It can also give us an emotional high as endorphins are released in response to laughing. Truly a merry heart doeth good like a

medicine.

The Will

“Will is the soul’s power to choose between motives and to direct its subsequent activity according to the motive thus chosen.”¹³

Salvation occurs when a person knows (mind) his need (Holy Spirit’s working), turns from his sin (act of will), receives Christ as Savior, and is born again. It is the will of man as to why one does not get saved. A person chooses (the will) to not be saved or to reject the light which God has given him.

John 5:40 “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

Christians are to yield their will to the Holy Spirit. Our will acts for our entire being:

Our emotions express our feelings.
Our mind tells us what to think.
Our will communicates what we want.

Therefore, the will is most influential. The will chooses to allow either the spirit to rule or the flesh to rule. It chooses to follow the world, the devil, the emotions, the mind, or the Lord. The will’s ability to choose makes us responsible and accountable for our actions.

Romans 6:13 “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

Romans 6:16 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

C.H. Spurgeon once said that he had had eight different thoughts going

¹³ Augustus Strong, Systematic Theology, p.504

through his mind while he was preaching. Your will determines which thoughts you will entertain, ponder and dwell upon.

The Mind

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...”

According to these verses, the mind is a battlefield. The mind is the location of the battlefield between good and evil; demons and the Holy Spirit; and the flesh and the spirit. The enemy can become entrenched in strong holds. The mind may be the place of uncontrolled thoughts, impure pictures, wanderings, and confusion. If you are not controlling your mind and God is not controlling your mind, then the enemy is in control.

Here are some things that the Bible teaches about our mind:

A) God knows our thoughts.

Psalm 139:1-2 “O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.” (Matt. 9:4, 12:25, Lk. 5:22, 6:8, 11:17, 24:38, I Cor. 3:20)

B) Evil thoughts come from the heart.

Matthew 15:19 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies...”

Romans 7:20 “Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”

C) Sin comes when evil thoughts are entertained.

James 1:14-16 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.”

D) The Word of God discerns thoughts and motives

Hebrews 4:12-13 “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

It is God’s intention for you to control your mind as you bring every thought to the obedience of Christ. The only way to do this is for the Holy Spirit to control your spirit; which ought to control your will; which ought to control your thoughts.

2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...”

Romans 6:18 “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

Yielding and Discernment

Jesus has set the example of yielding one’s life to God.

Hebrews 10:7-9 “Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”

Hebrews 5:7-9 “Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him...”

Our soul contains emotions, the mind and the will. The Holy Spirit also possesses emotions, a mind and a will.

Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God...” (emotions)

Romans 8:27 “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit...” (mind)

1 Corinthians 12:11 “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” (will)

Hence, we have a personality that desires to do our will, and the Holy Spirit has a personality that desires to do His will. We must yield ourselves to allow God to have His will done. Anything short of obedience is rebellion.

We are not to put our mind and will in a passive state. This can lead to allowing an entrance of evil spirits. A blank, passive mind and a passive will is nowhere found in the Bible. The Holy Spirit speaks to the spirit in intuition, communion and conscience. The role of the mind is to assist the intuition, not to be the seed-bed for it. When we put our mind and will in a passive state, we are allowing self and spirits (not from God) to give us thoughts such as:

‘You are God’s special vessel.’
‘Your work will shake the world.’
‘You are more spiritual than others.’
‘God will open a wide door for your ministry.’
‘You will be wealthy.’

Such thoughts are at best from self. True communication with God occurs in the spirit. Communication with the devil starts in the mind.

Genesis 3:1 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

Genesis 3:4 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die...”

Genesis 3:5 “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

The devil argued (in their mind):

Hath God (really) said?
Will He really punish?
God is not out for their best.

The Bible states, “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked.” Because our heart is so deceitful, it is imperative that we discern between communication that is from the spirit and communication that comes from our soul. Discernment in intuition and communion is a great part of walking in the Spirit.

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

The complexity of the soul must be understood. Many Christians have mistaken a *soulish* life for a spiritual walk. Knowledge must be accompanied with wisdom to walk in the Spirit.

Next we will examine the body. The body affects our spiritual walk because we are a triune being. The body must not be neglected or our spiritual life will be affected by it.

The Body

The Body Formed from Dust

Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Genesis 3:19 “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

“With its incomparable, sublime simplicity, the Word of God declares that God formed man’s body from the dust of the ground. Chemically, this is true. One scientific authority states that fifteen elements of the soil are represented in the human body. These he enumerates as follows: calcium, chlorine, fluorine, hydrogen, iodine, iron, magnesium, manganese, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, potassium, silicon, sodium, and sulfur. The vital minerals are calcium, iron, potassium, magnesia, sodium, and silicon. All of these minerals are present in organic form and compose nearly six percent of the body, the remainder being of water, carbon, and gases. Though no mineral in its inorganic form can be assimilated by the human body, when transformed from inorganic to organic form by their absorption into vegetation or being broken down by chemical action, they are then prepared to take their place in the human body. Thus, it may be seen that the testimony of science reiterates the Biblical disclosure that the human body is ‘of the earth, earthy’ (I Cor. 15:47-49), and the spirit of man, like a ‘treasure,’ is contained in ‘earthen vessels’ (2 Cor. 4:7).”¹⁴

The name *Adam* may be derived from ‘*adhamah*’ meaning *ground*.

¹⁴ Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, Vol II, p.145-146

God named him:

Genesis 5:1-2 “This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.”

The Body - Fashioned by God

Psalms 139:13-16 “For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.”

Romans 9:20 “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus?”

Your body has been uniquely designed and fashioned by the Creator. We need to understand we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

“Did you know that 80% of all teenagers don't like the way they look? Are you one of them? Your self-rejection is a result of accepting the values of the world instead of God, so you may try to gain acceptance by compensating for your 'deficiencies' in ways that will be detrimental to your spiritual life.

Remember, God's purpose for you is not a beautiful and perfect body. It is to make you like Jesus Christ. The bottom line for most people is that they care more what people think than what God thinks. The clear thinking, clean hearted person is aware that, 'Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart.' They are smart enough to accept those things which cannot be changed.

Your body is a 'frame' around the real 'you' that God is developing. A picture frame is important but not nearly as important as the picture. The frame highlights the picture – not itself. Your body should likewise enhance the spiritual qualities that God is developing in you.

You must accept yourself the way you are in most areas. Change what you can, but realize that God loves you as you are and will use you to bring praise and glory to Himself. God loves you as you are, so why don't you love and accept yourself."¹⁵

The Believer and the Body

"The present body is unredeemed as yet, even though redemption has been applied to the soul and spirit. The saved person is a saved being within an unsaved body. This essential truth respecting the believer's body – that it remains unredeemed – is declared in Romans 8:23, where the saved one is said to be waiting for the redemption of his body, which said redemption will occur when Christ returns. As for the future of the believer's body, it is said to become, when redeemed and changed, like Christ's glorious body, and to be conformed to His body instantly at the rapture.

Philippians 3:21 "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 "So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

¹⁵ Dr. Don Boys, Your Health, p.86

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Distinguishing between the body and the spiritual life within it that God bestows on faith, the Apostle Paul suggests that the life from Him is a ‘treasure’ which is held in an earthen vessel (2 Cor. 4:7). This body which in its present living state is mortal – subject to death – will, if death does not ensue, put on immortality; and should death ensue, the body which, because of death puts on corruption, will at the resurrection of saved ones put on incorruption. The body which is to be the believer’s forever in glory is adapted to the spirit of man, while the same body in its present estate is adapted to the soul of man (1 Cor. 15:44-46). There is as much promise for the future of the believer’s body as there is for the future of his soul and spirit.”¹⁶

There are some terrific Bible truths concerning the body. These truths have far-reaching implications.

A) The Holy Spirit indwells your body. He is a gift from God.

Romans 8:9 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

B) The Holy Spirit stays in your body forever.

¹⁶ Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, Vol. VII, p.56

John 14:16-17 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

C) This Bible truth is for all believers after the resurrection.

John 7:38-39 “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

D) Your body belongs to God.

1 Corinthians 6:13 “Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.”

1 Corinthians 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

E) Your body is in union with Christ

Ephesians 5:30-32 “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

As husband and wife are united as one flesh, even so the relationship between Christ and our body is also one flesh. The Word of God teaches that we are ‘members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.’ We do not have to get to heaven for this union to be a reality – it is already so.

Being one flesh with Christ means that His body is joined to our body. This ought to change the way we live and act. But what ought to be more life-changing than this is the fact that all that He is, we are. We are members of His body, bone of His bones. What a blessed truth! I’m not sure all that this entails, but it is a most blessed and wonderful thing to know that I am one with Christ. All

that He is, I am one with Him. This is eternal security – He'll not be in heaven and leave me behind. I'll not go to hell and take Him with me! Where He is, so also will I be there.

Martin Luther describes this great spiritual truth thusly: “By faith thou art so glued to Christ that of thee and him there becomes as it were one person, so that with confidence thou canst say: ‘I am Christ, - that is, Christ’s righteousness, victory, etc., are mine, because He clings to me and I to him, for we have been joined through faith into one flesh and bone.”

John Bunyan stated, “The Lord led me into the knowledge of the mystery of union with Christ, that I was joined to him, that I was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. By this also my faith in him as my righteousness was the more confirmed; for if He and I were one, then His righteousness was mine, His merits mine, His victory also mine. Now could I see myself in heaven and on earth at once – in heaven by my Christ, my risen head, my righteousness and life, though on earth by my body or person.”

Andrew Fuller said, “I have no doubt that the imputation of Christ’s righteousness presupposes a union with him; since there is no perceivable fitness in bestowing benefits on one another’s sake, where there is no union or relation between.”

Jesus tells us in John 15:4 &7, “Abide in me, and I in you... If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.”

1 Corinthians 6:15-17 “Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an

harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”

“The thought of this seventeenth verse is that man, in joining his body to that of a prostitute, becomes one flesh and also a member of her; how could our bodies not become the members of Christ if we are united to the Lord and become one spirit with Him? To join the body to a prostitute will affect the union of the two bodies: how much more must the two bodies become one if our whole being is joined to Christ!”¹⁷

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells of our union with Him and the Father:

John 10:28-29 “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.”

John 17:21-23 “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

We are in Christ / Christ is in God / The Holy Spirit seals us. (Eph. 4:30)

God is in Christ / Christ is in us / The Holy Spirit is in us. (Rom. 8:9)

This is an indissoluble union. Jesus said, “They shall never perish.”

Hebrews 13:5-6 states, “...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

F) Your body is sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day it is redeemed.

Ephesians 1:13 “In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”

¹⁷Watchman Nee, The Spiritual Man, Vol.III, p.154

Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

Physical Health is Related to Spiritual Health

Your spiritual life and attitude will directly effect your body and its' health.

“We should not neglect the outer shell while attending to our inner components.

Our life shall suffer if we commit this blunder.”¹⁸

Proverbs 3:7-8 “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.”

Everyday you use up to a trillion red blood cells that must be renewed.

Your red blood cells are manufactured in the bone marrow. How critical is it that we keep our bones as healthy as possible. The Word of God tells us that our bones can be made better or worse by our spiritual life.

Proverbs 14:30 “A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.”

Proverbs 16:24 “Pleasant words *are* as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.”

Proverbs 17:22 “A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

Proverbs 18:8 “The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”

If a person lives right, it will affect their body.

Proverbs 3:21-24 “My son...keep sound wisdom and discretion... thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.”

¹⁸ Watchman Nee, The Spiritual Man, Vol.III, p.139

Proverbs 13:25 “The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul...”

Proverbs 14:30 “A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh...”

Proverbs 15:4 “A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life...”

Things that Adversely Affect the Body

Your physical life will directly affect your spiritual life. It is important that a person stays in good physical shape. It is imperative that the digestive tract is healthy by eating a proper diet. Thought and consideration should be given to herbal remedies and wellness.

The Bible teaches against over eating, drinking, over sleeping, and indulging in the body and its lusts.

A) Drinking

Proverbs 20:1 “Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

Proverbs 23:29-35 “Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, *shalt thou say, and* I was not sick; they have beaten me, *and* I felt *it* not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.”

B) Gluttony

Proverbs 23:21 “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.”

Proverbs 25:16 “Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.”

C) Over-sleeping

Proverbs 19:15 “Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.”

Proverbs 26:14 “As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed.”

Proverbs 20:13 “Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, *and* thou shalt be satisfied with bread.”

Sins Against the Body

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 “For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour...”

1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

Leviticus 18:20-24 “Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her. And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through *the fire* to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD. Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it *is* confusion. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you...”

Sexual sins are sins against the body and they defile the body. The physical union within the bounds of marriage is considered an ‘undefiled’ state.

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

Sexual relations within the bounds of marriage are pure and undefiled. All other sexual relations outside marriage defile the body and are considered sins against the body. Each person is compelled to know how to ‘possess his vessel’ and not to allow his/her body to be defiled.

Access to the Soul through the Body

The five senses are direct entrances into the soul. Of these, the eyes and the ears are the two primary entrances that every individual uses the most. God has made it this way. These two senses are means for both good and evil.

God revealed Himself to us by the Word of God. We must use our eyes to read it. God has also ordained preaching as a vehicle to proclaim His Word.

This, of course, necessitates the use of the ears in hearing.

Proverbs 20:12 “The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.”

Romans 10:17 “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Romans 10:14 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”

These two senses (sight and hearing) were the means of vexing the righteous soul of Lot.

2 Peter 2:7-8 “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)”

How critical is it that we guard the entrance to our soul in what we see and what we listen to.

Psalm 101:3 “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes...”

Job 31:1 “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”

Proverbs 27:20 “Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.”

“You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in

your body. You are members of Christ; you are a temple of the Holy Spirit; you are not your own. God purchased you with a great price. Everything of yours belongs to Him, especially your body. The union of Christ with you and the seal of the Holy Spirit within you proves that your body particularly is God's. So glorify God in your body. Brethren, God wishes us to honor Him there.”¹⁹

Paul states:

1 Corinthians 9:27 “But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

The meaning of this verse is remarkable. ‘I keep under my body’ comes from a word that refers to a boxer who beats black and blue. ‘Bring it into subjection’ literally means ‘to cause to live the life of a slave.’ Thus, Paul emphasizes our great need to subdue and control our body.

The Future of the Body

The Word of God declares that every human body will be raised from the dead. This is an all-inclusive statement, whether the body possess a saved or unsaved soul.

Acts 24:15 “And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.”

John 5:26-29 “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

¹⁹ Watchman Nee, [The Spiritual Man](#), p. 157

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 “But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh *is* not the same flesh: but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, *and* another of birds. *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory. So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”

To the Christian, death is not an event that should be feared. “Two vital words are employed in this whole context and with softened effect – *sown* and *sleep*. The former is used in place of the more familiar word *bury*. In the use of either word the thought of internment is indicated, but there is no resurrection hope implied in the word *bury* as is implied in the word *sown*. And while *sleep* is a New Testament term meaning *death* (John 11:11-14, I Cor. 11:30), it is that peculiar aspect of death belonging only to the Christian, from which his body will be awakened by the trumpet of God at the coming of Christ.”²⁰

“Do not view death merely as a ‘crisis’; it is pre-eminently a progressive matter. It is already in us and is gradually and relentlessly devouring us. Our release from this earthly tent is but the crisis consummation of the protracted working of death.”²¹

“The last of the four physical transformations described in I Cor. 15:42-44 is especially far-reaching and illuminating. The truth declared is that the present body is adapted to the soul, being *sw/ma yuciko, n*, (soulish / natural body)

²⁰ Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, Vol.II, p.151

²¹ Watchman Nee, The Spiritual Man, Vol. III, p.214

while the body that is yet to be is adapted to the spirit, being *sw/ma pneumatiko, n* (spiritual body).

The measure of this distinction corresponds with the difference which obtains between human soul and spirit – a difficult problem in metaphysics indeed! The implication that so extensive a difference obtains between the Christian’s soul and spirit as these two bodies represent should go far to correct theories which contend that soul and spirit are identical. Since the resurrection body or changed body is to be like Christ’s glorified body, and since that body is adapted to the spirit, it follows that the spirit of man covets those indescribable refinements which characterize the glorified body of Christ. The present body is said to be one of humiliation or limitation, but the body that is to be will satisfy every desire of the spirit.”²²

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

The saved are said to have ‘put off’ the old man and ‘put on’ the new man (Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:9-10). But Paul states that they are to ‘put on’ either *incorruption* or *immortality*, all of which implies that corruption and mortality will be put off.

“The Word of God is uncomplicated in its testimony to the truth that the

²² Lewis Sperry Schafer, Systematic Theology, Vol. II p.155

believer's body is as eternal in character as the soul and spirit. The term *immortality* refers only to the future of the redeemed body and not at all to the soul, and whatever reality this great word asserts applies only to the body.

Though structural changes are in store, since flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of God, the body that now is shall be raised from the estate of death, leaving naught behind, and shall experience those changes which are divinely determined.

The Bible says very little about the future of the unsaved body. It will be raised up with the soul to be judged by God:

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it...And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God...and death (body) and Hell (soul) delivered up the dead...and they were judged...And death (body) and hell (soul) were cast into the lake of fire...This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Jesus describes the unsaved body as a *worm*.

Mark 9:43-48 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

We have covered the three parts to the triune man. There is one more aspect that is critical to the Christian. It is what the Bible calls the *flesh*.

The Flesh

The Sinful Flesh

The most powerful foe you will ever face is the enemy within yourself, your *flesh*. The *flesh* is the fallen nature of man, a disposition to sin. The Bible refers to it as the *old man*. This enemy is what they call in espionage terminology as a *mole*, someone who has penetrated deeply into the very vitals of every Christian. The greatest battle you will face is the battle with the *flesh*. The most glorious victory you will ever win is the victory over yourself. The most pleasant peace you will ever experience is the peace with yourself.

“A reporter once asked the great evangelist D.L. Moody which people gave him the most trouble. He answered immediately, “I’ve had more trouble with D.L. Moody than any man alive.”²³

Paul was ever mindful of this inner battle as he wrote:

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,

1 Corinthians 9:27 “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

The Bible refers to the flesh:

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

²³ John C. Maxwell Developing the Leader Within You, p.163

Mark 7:21-23 “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

Galatians 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Even mature Christians battle with the flesh. It is a constant until death.

The Bible gives a biographical sketch of the godly man, Job:

Job 1:1 “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”

And yet Job was keenly aware of his flesh:

Job 40:4 “Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.”

Job 42:6 “Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job 15:16 “How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinketh iniquity like water?”

David was ‘a man after God’s own heart,’ and we see this battle that occurs in his flesh in Psalms chapter 40.

Psalm 40:8 “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.”

Psalm 40:12 “For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.”

The Flesh is Received at Birth

Psalm 51:5 “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

John 3:6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

The flesh cannot be altered, changed or trained.

Proverbs 20:9 “Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?”

The *flesh* will be our enemy till death. We do not eradicate the *flesh*, we overcome it. Just as an eagle does not negate the law of gravity, he overcomes it with a greater law – the law of aerodynamics.

The Bible Pathway to Victory

God desires Christians to be victorious over sin.

John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”

Galatians 1:4 “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father...”

1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Victory is not obtained in a casual way. We are in a spiritual battle. The enemy is real, the battles are real, and the battle is won with a battle plan:

1) Be honest with yourself

We must honestly view ourselves in the light of the Word of God. The flesh in the believer is no different than the flesh in the unbeliever. Regeneration does not improve the old nature, the flesh. Our heart is deceitful and desperately wicked; therefore it is very natural for us to not honestly access our sinful nature or sinful condition.

2) Be filled with the Spirit. It is a command given in the Bible.

Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

We must be empty. The Holy Spirit can only fill an empty vessel. If we are

filled with sin or self, he is unable to fill us. We must give our will to God and allow His Spirit to fill us.

A) Confess all known sin.

1 John 1:8-9 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

When we sin, we must immediately confess our sins to stay right with God. He forgives, for He is a merciful and forgiving God.

Psalm 103:8 “The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”

Psalm 103:11 “For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.”

Psalm 103:17 “But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him.”

B) Die to self

1 Corinthians 15:31 “I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

Romans 6:6 “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Death is the way to bear fruit:

John 12:24-25 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”

C) Yield to God

Roman 6:12-16 “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace... Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

Romans 6:19 “I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”

God wants us to yield our all – our body, our plans, everything:

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*”

James 4:13-15 “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

Luke 14:33 “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

D) Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17 “*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

Romans 6:6 “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

The word *destroyed* in this verse does not mean annihilate. It means:

“To *cause to be idle or useless*, the term always denotes a nonphysical destruction by means of a superior force coming in to replace the force

previously in effect, as, e.g. light destroys darkness; as destruction by replacement.”²⁴

Hence, as we walk in the Spirit, we overcome the flesh. *We cause it to be idle or useless.*

Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

We are to be submissive to the Spirit within our spirit and die to our *flesh* and its lusts.

Romans 13:14 “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.”

E) We must continually **ask** God for His filling and by faith accept it.

Luke 11:13 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

3) Be persistent.

Proverbs 24:16 “For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again.”

Ephesians 4:22-24 “That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye **put on** the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

Everything that is alive grows. The Christian is to grow as this process of putting off and putting on occurs. Eagles will molt their feathers. Even so, the Christians is to transform himself and conform to the image of Christ as growth occurs. This is a supernatural victory that comes from God.

“Frederick the Great of Prussia was walking on the outskirts of Berlin when he encountered a very old man proceeding in the opposite direction.

²⁴ Friberg’s Bible Dictionary from *Bible Works 4.0*

“Who are you?” asked Frederick.

“I am a king,” replied the old man.

“A king!” laughed Frederick. “Over what kingdom do you reign?”

“Over myself,” was the proud reply.²⁵

May we also reign over our flesh with God’s help.

²⁵ John C. Maxwell, Developing the Leader Within You, p.162

Conclusion

A philosopher has stated, “Know thyself.” We must use our knowledge of our body, soul, spirit, and flesh to overcome sin and to learn to walk in the Spirit.

The Christian will either live:

Naturally – for sin
Carnally – for self
Spiritually – for the Savior

If we are living in sin, which defiles us, we are living as the natural man.

If we live carnally, we are following the dictates of self. Self can appear very respectful, lovely and helpful. A life ruled by self is characterized by the following:

- 1) Self-righteous
- 2) Dogmatic on minor doctrines
- 3) Overly-sensitive
- 4) Thrive on sensation
- 5) Indulge in lusts of the eyes
- 6) Talkative
- 7) Easily discouraged
- 8) Quick to criticize and slow to forgive
- 9) Tendency to be hasty

God wants us to live a spiritual life. This life comes by:

- 1) Overcoming sin
- 2) Walking with God (intuition & communion of the Spirit)

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

My prayer and desire is that these truths of the triune man may help you to live victorious and walk humbly with God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

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