

YOU ARE SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY

(AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THIS)

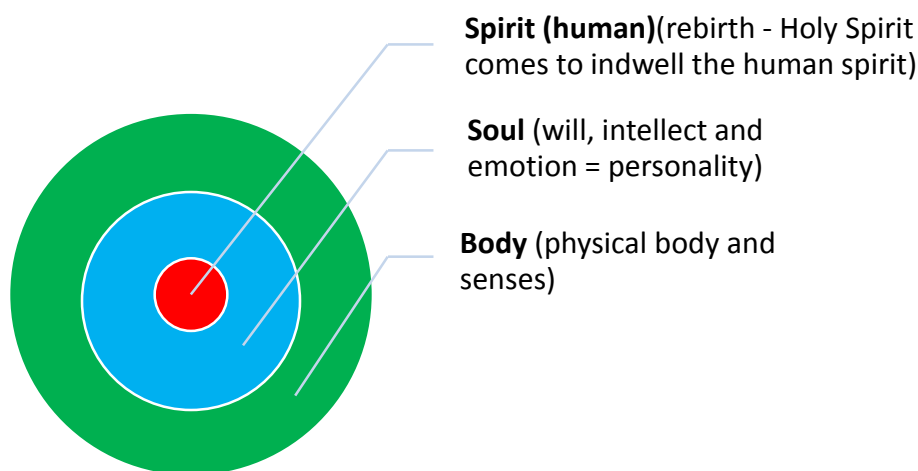


Every person who has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her personal saviour must understand that God has designed us, His people, to be triune as He is (He created us in His image, Gen. 1: 26).

A human being therefore consists of spirit, soul and body.

Paul already knew this about 2 000 years ago. Hear what he says in 1 Thessalonians 5: 23: *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

This concept of the triune nature of human beings can best be illustrated by the following diagram:



In Hebrews 4 verse 12 Paul says: *“For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (our underlining).”*

The spirit and the soul is therefore not one and the same thing. The soul is very much part of our flesh life. Failure to recognise this and to distinguish between the spirit and the soul leads many reborn Christians into condemnation and leaves them wide open to Satan undermining the security that they should have in God. Without this understanding, those who are alive to God in the spirit,

following conversion, are tempted to discount the reality of their new life in Christ because of problems they are experiencing in their soul. Satan loves to have us confused on this issue and to keep us in defeat.¹

(Watchman Nee in his three volume book called *“The Spiritual Man”* (Christian Fellowship Publishers, Inc. 1968)² explains the tripartite nature of human beings thoroughly and readers are referred to this book for a more in depth discussion and for further reading and understanding.)

1. The human spirit

Our spirit is that part of us that receives God’s Holy Spirit when we become reborn in Christ.

Our spirit, that has been dead to God due to the fall (as a result of sin), becomes alive by the circumcision of the Holy Spirit when we invite Jesus Christ to come into our “hearts” (spirits) and to become our personal Saviour. The spirit of a believer therefore becomes holy unto God and untouchable to the enemy (Satan and his demonic forces) at his/her rebirth³. As long as the believer remains in Jesus Christ, his/her spirit belongs to God and when he/she dies, his/her spirit immediately goes to Heaven to live forever with Jesus Christ.

It is said that a human being is essentially spirit, with a soul that lives in a body. This means that we have primarily been designed by God as spiritual beings. We however also need a soul and a body to exist in the natural realm and in order to relate to each other on earth.

Our spirit is the part of us that becomes connected with God’s Holy Spirit when we get reborn as believers and our spirit relates to and communicates with God’s Spirit. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2: 16: *“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”* This “mind” that Paul is referring to is our spiritual mind that becomes aligned with the mind of Christ when we are reborn. Therefore, in our spirits we know the will of God and is able to think as He thinks.

It is therefore very important to understand that the spirit of a reborn Christian is saved and will go to Heaven (irrespective of the condition of that believer’s soul dimension and body upon his/her death). This is GREAT news – thank you Jesus!! Every believer should hold on to and never forget this. This is what God’s grace is, that we are saved and may live forever with Jesus, irrespective of our sin. Jesus promises in His Word that no one will be able to pull us (our spirits) from out of His hand (once we are saved).

¹ Peter Horrobin, *Healing through Deliverance*, p. 57

² Available at CUM bookstores

³ Charles Craft, *“Defeating Dark Angels”*, 1992 edition, p. 66 and 67

2. The human soul

When God created the human race, He decided to also give each person a living soul. The soul is that dimension of our flesh life that is eternal.⁴ This means our souls also live forever, as do our spirits.

Our soul is made up of our will, intellect and emotions (“WIE”). It is the part of our being that we use to relate to each other socially on earth in the natural realm. It can also be called our “personality”. Watchman Nee says⁵ that: *“The seat and essence of the personality is the soul.”*

Our will is very important since it is a free will and should never be overridden by anyone (not even God goes against our free will (a spiritual rule), although we know that God is also sovereign and can do what He desires). God seldom forces anyone to believe in Him or to accept a certain calling. He usually wants us to choose Him and to be obedient to Him out of our own free will.

It is also said that the will is the portal to the spirit since we first have to decide with our free will to let Jesus Christ into our spirit, before we are reborn.

The intellect is the part of our soul that thinks, reasons, rationalises and analyses. This part of us is very important but it should never override our spirit since spiritual things should be discerned spiritually and not by our soulish reason or intellect. Many believers struggle to understand spiritual concepts due to the fact that their soulish intellect stands in the way and blocks the understanding which should firstly take place in the spirit. In 1 Corinthians 2:14 Paul says (Amplified translation): *“But the natural, non-spiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless non-sense) to him: and he is incapable of knowing them (of progressively recognising, understanding and becoming better acquainted with them) because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.”*

Our emotion is the part of us that we can also call our “feelings”. They are things such as joy, excitement, sorrow, regret, guilt, longing etc.

Together our will, intellect and emotions make up our “personality” or soul dimension.

3. The human body

Our body is simply the fleshly home for our spirit and soul on earth for without it we would not have been able to be human beings. Our five senses are a part of our body and enables us to respond to the world around us.

The amazing thing is however that God not only loves our spirits but also our souls and bodies. He loves and adores us holistically which also explains why He desires for us to become whole, clean and holy in our souls and bodies as

⁴ Horrobin, p. 59

⁵ P. 36

well (refer 1 Thes. 5:23 quoted above) - so that we may live a life of complete victory and may glorify Him.

4. **Why is it important to understand the distinction between spirit, soul and body?**

We need to understand this distinction since God says through His prophet Hosea in Hosea 4:6: *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*

Satan uses ignorance to keep God’s people in bondage as slaves to his kingdom.

Why do we say this?

If you do not know you are spirit, soul and body and perhaps thinks that spirit and soul is one and the same thing, **you may become seriously discouraged and may even lose your faith** when, just after you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, you carry on struggling with the same sin in your life as before.

To make things worse, the following verse may be quoted to you: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Did you know that the enemy knows the Bible very well and will even try to use Scripture against you? A child of God who does not understand that he is spirit, soul and body may easily be condemned by this exact verse thinking, since I am still struggling with the same sin than before (e.g. addictions, impure thoughts, aggression, unforgiveness etc.), I am not truly saved since I do not experience that I am a new creation and that all things have definitely not become new for me.

What does this verse in the Bible then truly mean? It means that when you are converted into Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and King, you become a completely new person in your spirit since the Holy Spirit comes and lives in your spirit. Your spirit becomes totally new, unblemished and holy. However, in your soul and body, it remains a process under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to become holy and sanctified.

The other important thing that flows from the fact that you are spirit, soul and body is that **it becomes clear how reborn Christians can still have demons (and demonic soul copies (DSC’s)) in them.** Since you only become reborn in your spirit and your spirit is the only place that becomes holy and unblemished when you give your life to Jesus, the soul and body may still be oppressed by various demons and DSC’s that came into you as a result of unrepented sin, unhealed trauma, unbroken blood line curses etc. These demons will not necessarily leave upon your conversion into Christ since they may still have rights to cling to in your soul dimension and body.

A good example would be a reborn Christian that still refuses to forgive someone who has hurt him or her. He has accepted Jesus into his spirit and

his spirit became reborn but in his soul he still harbours the same unforgiveness, hatred, bitterness and resentment towards this person. As long as the unrepented sin and the negative feelings are still present in the soul dimension, the demons and DSC's that feed off it will still remain.

Another example would be a reborn Christian who had an extremely unhappy childhood and suffers from serious rejection and feelings of worthlessness and a low self-image. The demons and DSC's of rejection, unworthiness and low self-image will still remain in this Christian's soul and body until the unhealed childhood trauma has been dealt with by the Holy Spirit and complete inner healing has come.

Jesus calls all reborn Christians up to submit to a process of inner healing, deliverance and sanctification in soul and body so that they may become completely holy in spirit, soul and body (as He is holy). 1 Peter 1: 15 and 16: *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy"."*

ALL PRAISE AND HONOUR TO JESUS CHRIST OUR RISEN SAVIOUR FOR THIS TEACHING!

(If you have been blessed by this teaching, please consider to register as a "friend" of the ministry and to support us with prayer and a monthly donation.)