

The Triune Man Background – Bible Study

Our spiritual walk will be greatly helped if we understand the origin of the spirit, soul and body. Our spirit comes directly from God for it is God-given (Num. 16.22). We have three choices: Each of us will either Disobey God (ADAM), be Deceived (EVE) or Obey God (JESUS—The New ADAM).

What happened in the Garden? See Genesis 3

Adam lived by the breath of life becoming spirit in him. By the spirit he sensed God, knew God's voice, and communed with God. He had a very keen awareness of God. **But after his fall his spirit died.**

Adam understood that what the serpent said was nothing more than the enemy's deception. From the words of the Apostle we are led to see that Adam sinned deliberately. He loved Eve more than himself. He made her his idol, and for her sake he was willing to rebel against God.

Adam's spirit died because of his **disobedience** to God. He still had his spirit, yet it was dead to God for it had lost its spiritual instinct. Eve's spirit died because she was **deceived**. The tree of life cannot grow within us together with the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

When God spoke to Adam at the first He said, "**in the day that you eat of it (the fruit of the tree of good and evil) you shall die**" (Gen. 2.17). Adam and Eve nevertheless continued on for hundreds of years after eating the forbidden fruit. This obviously indicates that the death God foretold was not physical. Please note: **Adam's death began in his spirit.**

What really is death? According to its scientific definition death is "*the cessation (cease to exist) of communication with environment.*" Death of the spirit is the nonexistence of its communication with God. Death of the body is the cutting off of communication between spirit and body.

So when we say the spirit is dead it does not imply there is no more spirit; we simply mean the spirit has **lost its sensitivity towards God** and thus **is dead to Him.**

Fallen men are governed completely by the flesh, walking in response to the desires of their soulish life and physical passions. Such ones are unable to commune with God. Sometimes they display their intellect, at others times their passion, but more often both their intellect and passion.

Adam had a choice: Because before He forbade Adam to eat the fruit of the tree of good and evil and warned him that in the day he ate he should die

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(Gen. 2.17), He first commanded man to eat freely of every tree of -the garden and purposely mentioned the tree of life in the midst of the garden.

"The fruit of the knowledge of good and evil" uplifts the human soul and suppresses the spirit.

God does not forbid man to eat of this fruit merely to test man. He forbids it because He knows that by eating this fruit man's soul life will be so stimulated that his spirit life will be stifled. This means man will lose the true knowledge of God and thus be dead to Him. God's forbiddance shows God's love

The knowledge of good and evil in this world is itself evil. It puffs up the soul life and consequently deflates the spirit life to the point of losing any knowledge of God, to the point of becoming as much as dead.

Either we can accept God's life, thus becoming a spiritual man and a partaker of divine nature; or we can inflate his created life into becoming soulish, consequently inflicting death on our spirit. God imparted a perfect balance to the three parts of man. **Whenever one part is over/under-developed the others are afflicted.**

SOUL: The prominent parts of the soul are man's mind, will and emotion. **Will** is the organ of decision, therefore the master of the man. **Mind** is the organ of thought, while **Emotion** is that of affection.

When man's will and mind and emotion were poisoned by the serpent and man followed after Satan instead of God, his spirit, which was capable of communing with God, suffered a fatal blow. **Conduct example with Water...**

All satanic works are performed from the outside inward; but all divine works, from the inside outward. This is how we distinguish what comes from God and what from Satan. It also teaches us that once Satan seizes man's will, then is he in control over that man.

- The **spiritual** depends utterly upon God, satisfied with God has given.
- The **soulish** steers clear of God and covets what God has not conferred, especially "knowledge."

Rebellion and independence explain every sin committed by both sinners and saints. **God's thought is for the spirit to have the pre-eminence, ruling our soul. But once man turns fleshly his spirit sinks into servitude to the soul.**