

Triune Man – The Spirit - Part I

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 we mature in Christ, we learn to walk with God in our spirit. 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.”*

Since the Holy Spirit is going to use our own human spirit to enlighten us, we need to understand the function, operation, and purpose of the human spirit.

As stated last week three (3) things was damaged by the fall:

1. The entire soul (mind, emotion, and will) was contaminated,
2. The body was changed in nature, and
3. The spirit died.

This hopeless state of man sets the stage for God’s salvation. This is the new birth; the regeneration alluded to in **John 3:6**: *“that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* By this new birth a new element has been added to our spirit that was not originally there according to our first birth: **God’s own life**. This is fulfillment of the Lord’s promise in **Ezekiel 36:26**: *“a new spirit I will put within you”*.

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. (vs.15-16)

Notice that the **Spirit himself testifies with our spirit**.

- The Holy Spirit speaks to our spirit.
- Our spirit then echoes the voice of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit uses our own spirit to lead and guide us. **Proverbs 20:27** confirms this: *The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.*

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Prov 3:5).

Our own understanding comes from our mind, not our heart. He says to **trust in the LORD with all your heart**. Our heart is our spirit. Our spirit is the safe guide, not our mind. Our mind can get confused. *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your*

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whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Thes 5:23)

May your whole SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY be kept blameless. It is important we do not confuse our spirits with our souls. **The soul is the mind, will and emotions.** The word for soul in the Greek is the word *psuche*, which we derive our word psychology from. Psychology is the study of the soul or the mind. **(The soul and the spirit are not the same.)**

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

The Word of God can **divide soul and spirit**. If the soul and spirit were the same, how could they be divided? Obviously, the soul and spirit are not the same. Only the Word of God can divide them, and the Word does.

First, it says the Word divides **joints and marrow**. Are joints and marrow the same thing? Absolutely not! Are they related? Absolutely!!! Which is more important?

- The marrow is more important, because it gives life to the bones.
- The marrow affects the health of the joints.

Second, the scripture says the Word **judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart**. Are thoughts the same as attitudes? Not really, but they are related.

- Attitudes are definitely more important than thoughts.
- Thoughts are important as well.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. Rm 12:1-2.

We still need to deal with the body and mind. He tells us to **offer our bodies as living sacrifices**. He also tells us to **be transformed by the renewing of our mind**. But nothing is mentioned about our spirits. **Why?** He does not need to tell us to change our spirit, because our spirit is born again. The spirit is the part of us, which has been changed by salvation. The renewed mind **will be able to test and approve what God's will is.**

Can you see that many believers are living beneath their privilege of being led by the Spirit? They are, unfortunately, being led by **the bread of adversity and the water of affliction**. Sure, we can be led that way, if we want, but God has a better way for us. He does not want us to go to the "School of Hard Knocks." He wants us to register with the "School of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit will lead us to avoid adversity and affliction. He will guide us up a better path—a path of blessings and abundant spiritual life—not afflictions.