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The Spirit and the Soul!

Those of you who have read my book, *Genesis: Yesterday's Answers to Today's Problems*, know that our soul is in our blood. When God created this world there was a big difference between creating (bara) and making. To create is to bring something into existence out of nothing. To make is to take what has been created and turn it into something.

Throughout the six days of creation God creates what He needs and then makes things out of it. Therefore, when God creates something later on in chapter one we see that something extra was added to this universe. Man is both made and created. On day five God created "life" (nephesh) in the animals. On day six God made man. Life was already in existence so God used it to make a living human being with a "nephesh," or soul. But, after that God created man in His own image. It is this creating that indicates a newness and uniqueness of man. What did God create that wasn't yet called into existence. The spirit! Man is a trinity of body, soul and spirit. Animals do not have a spirit, yet they have a soul. So what is the difference between soul and spirit?

The ancient Greeks understood your emotions to be within your bowels. The very location showed that they did not think too highly of emotions. It was the mind that held truth and reason and,

therefore, the mind was appealed to while the bowels or emotions were looked down upon. This attempt to lessen the emotion and heighten the truthful reason was a wise practice.

I believe that the bowel versus the mind is a good summary of the difference between soul and spirit. The soul is simply your life (nephesh). Both animals and humans have it. Plants do not, and for a good reason. They do not have blood. According to the Bible, "For the life [Nephesh] of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Lev 17:11). We have already discussed in an earlier newsletter that this is the reason we are not to eat meat with blood in it even today (Acts 15:29). We are to drink only one blood and that is Christ's for He said, "My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink" (John 6:55, continue through John for a better understanding). Therefore, Christ's life or soul is within us through communion.

Though the soul is not bad, it is certainly not the part of our trinity that we are to appeal to. Our spirit or mind is what we need to guard. Think about it. The church growth movement often times focuses more on the emotions than on truth. What do we appeal to in order to bring people into the churches? The soul or emotions. We try and make sure we have the right music, the comfortable pews, the nice windows and that we never offend anyone. Your emotions or soul don't save you. We need to appeal to the spirit within by giving them God's LIVING Word. It is truth and reason that feed the mind or spirit, not emotions. Jesus said, "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24). Don't get me wrong, the spirit moves the soul but, not vice versa. We read, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (James 2:26). Consider the following verses showing the importance of worshipping and walking in the spirit of truth and reason:

1 Pet 3:4 "Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

1 Pet 4:6 "For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray"

Phil 1:25 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

2 Tim 4:22 "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you."

2 Tim 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

Phil 2:2 "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

2 Cor 4:13 "It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak."

2 Cor 7:1 'Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.'

2 Cor 11:4 "For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."

2 Cor 12: "Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not act in the same spirit and follow the same course?"

1 Cor 14:2 "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to

men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit."

1 Cor 7:34 "An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit."

1 Cor 6:17 "But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit."

Rom 8:6 "The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace"

Rom 8:16 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

1 John 5:6-8 "And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement."

THE SOUL

3 John 1:2 "Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." (soul used for life).

2 Pet 2:8 "(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented [emotion] in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)"

1 Pet 2:11 "Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires [emotions], which war against your soul."

Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than

any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit. [emotions and truth]"

Ezek 18:4 "For every living soul belongs to Me, the father as well as the son--both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die."

Prov 16:24 "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul [emotions] and healing to the bones."

Luke 1:46-47 "And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.'"

Mark 14:34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death, He said to them. Stay here and keep watch."

Micah 6:7 "Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

There are many things we could compare here, but I am going to let Scripture speak for Himself. We can see that both grief and desires are almost exclusively used in reference to the soul. Love is the only emotion that is associated with the spirit, probably because it is the only one that will remain forever. Actually, it could be argued whether or not that is even an emotion. As we see in Corinthians, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13). Love is greatest because in heaven, faith and hope will be gone. There will be no need for them anymore and thus love remains and is greatest because it is eternal. Love even "covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Pet 4:8). Again, Scripture shows that the soul is a good thing and we should not be anti-soul, however, one must be careful about following the "soul" desires because often times it is led by emotions which often fail us.

The Spirit is certainly the source and home of truth. If the Spirit of God testifies with our spirit one might even say that our Spirit is very similar to what we see the Holy Spirit as being. The soul simply benefits from our spirit being touched by the Holy Spirit. The soul will indeed be cast into hell since "the soul that sins shall die." Again, we said our life is in our soul. But those who are led by the Spirit do things that the Spirit desires and then the soul is fed and sanctified. Those who are not led by the Spirit will be cast into the lake of fire as seen in Revelation: "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death" (Rev 20:14). The soul that sins will indeed die a final death. But, "He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death" (Rev 2:11). The Christian soul lives forever because the Spirit of truth is in us.