

Lesson 13

d) Body - Soul - Spirit; how they interact.

- We've seen so far that they are three independent personal centers, consolidated in their functions. The function of the spirit is to understand spiritual things, the things of God, it is the link with heaven, it is the channel of communication with God. The soul is my personality, emotions, will, decision-making center, feelings. The body is the physical part, where I come into contact with material things through the five senses.
- They are three different parts, with different functions and one does not replace the function of the other. But we ask: if someone doesn't have a soul, can we say that they are a human being? Or without the spirit? And without the body?
- So, to be a complete man, a man has to have all three parts. When he uses each part, the others don't remain isolated, they all interact with each other normally. When I worship God, I am worshipping God as a whole, even though this is a specific function of the spirit. When I'm running or eating, I'm whole, but these are functions of the body. When I'm thinking, using my intellect, I'm acting directly with my soul, but my body and spirit are there. At first it can be difficult to understand, but the interaction is continuous, it's all automatic, it's instantaneous.
- The difficulty of understanding the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, forming the Tri-Unity of God, compared to the formation of man with Body, Soul and Spirit, is no mere coincidence. This is how God made man, as one of the aspects of his image and likeness. The figure of a triangle can help to elucidate this; we write God in the center of the triangle and on each side Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can say: God the Son is not God the Father, God the Holy Spirit is not God the Father; but the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. They are three individual persons, acting as one, the Triune God, the Almighty.
- If we look at man, the mark of God is there; he forms a trinity with **BODY - SOUL - SPIRIT**, with each part independent, forming one person; that's why we say trinity and not Tri-Unity. However, in their likeness to God, they are three parts. No other being created by God is composed in this way, not even the angels.
- We can see that in the universe there is always the mark of God, e.g. the universe is made up of space, energy and time, and each in turn is also divided into three parts. In man, this mark forms one of the aspects of the likeness, man is made up of three parts, different from each other, but they make up man. Without one of them, we wouldn't be part of the human race.

How do the parties interact?

- The Spirit breathed into man is the beginning of God's life in man. What happened when the breath of God touched that body? At that moment, man's spirit was formed and when man's spirit touched the body of dust of the ground, man became a living soul. In other words, man began to manifest himself on planet earth. The soul is the ego, the personality, the individuality of man; at that moment man received his individuality.

- We have to know very well how we work. The spirit of man is not the Holy Spirit. Today, the man who is saved has his spirit inhabited by the Holy Spirit, it's different.

⇒ **Romans 8:11**

But the body was made alive by the Spirit breathed into it, and man became conscious of himself, he received his soul. In the Bible, the word soul often replaces the word person, because it is the soul that makes the person manifest; it is the ego, it is the individual manifesting in the world.

- The soul represents the individual as they are. When you talk about someone, immediately in your mind comes the image of everything they are: their personality, how you see them, and you see them as they manifest in their soul. That's the 'x' of the matter, this manifestation always comes from the soul. It's my soul that lets me know that I am me. It's my soul that, when I die, will be aware of where I am.
- Now, it is my spirit that makes me aware of God. When I say to you that '*I believe in the God who created heaven and earth, in the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Triune God, in the Holy Spirit*', I say it with my mouth, because it came to my mind through my spirit. I can only be convinced of this if it comes from my spirit, because it is in the spirit that I have this spiritual revelation. It has to come to my mind, because everything comes to the mind and then I speak with my mouth (*in the body*). I, as an individual, am convinced of this, because it came from intuition in my spirit.

⇒ **I Corinthians 12:3**

⇒ **I John 4:1~6**

When God comes to dwell in us, after salvation in Jesus, he comes to dwell in our spirit. And it is because God dwells in my spirit, because my spirit has been recreated, that I can say what I said above.

- We see with this example that I expressed something that came from my spirit, passed into my soul, specifically my mind was convinced by my spirit, and my body (*mouth*) verbalized it. Through the body you come into contact with matter, with the material world, you affect and are affected by this world. With the spirit you come into contact with the spiritual world, you affect and are affected by this world.
- But what about the soul? The soul is between the two, between the spirit and the body. The soul is the point of connection between the body and the spirit; it is my ego; it is the manifestation of my person in the world. The soul, this manifestation, will be influenced in some way either by the spiritual world (*through my spirit*) or by the material world (*through my body*).
- Why is the soul the connecting point? Because it decides who governs my life. It is in the soul that there is something called will. Will is my **FREE WILL**. God left man sovereignty, the sovereignty to choose freely. The soul will choose where it wants to be, it will choose to be influenced by the spirit or by the body. The spirit needs the soul to subject the body.
- The spirit can't go straight to subjecting the body, it needs the soul, because it is the soul that will give the command to the body. For the spirit to subject the body, the soul needs to be submissive, subject to the spirit. The body in turn, if the soul is submissive to it, can draw the spirit into the world, because the body can also come into dominion. The soul will be subject to the body and will do what the body influences it to do.

- The soul is between the two and will receive the character of one of them. Therefore, when we manifest our ego in front of others, it will appear who we are dominated by the spirit or the flesh. There is a struggle between the spirit and the flesh to dominate the will of our soul.

⇒ **Galatians 5:16~26**

⇒ **Romans 7:7~25**

⇒ **Romans 8:1~17**

- In the original order, when God created man, what God had in mind for man was that the spirit, influenced by God, understanding the things of God, choosing by its soul to be with God, the spirit would have total influence over the soul, which would automatically dominate the body. The spirit would be in subjection to the body; spiritual things would be in preeminence to the body. When we return to this chain of command by accepting Jesus as Savior, a lot of things fall into place, we are freed from many things, from the way we dress to many other habits that we would find impossible to give up. Within this chain of command, the body regains its true role in our lives.
- So, the soul cooperates between body and spirit, and the spirit must rule through the soul. For example: the master is the spirit, the soul is the steward, and the body is the servant. The master gives orders to the steward, and the steward distributes the work to the servant. However, in fallen man, contaminated by sin, everything is reversed, the master is there in the body.
- The body only submits to the spirit through the will of the soul. The spirit cannot act directly on the body; it needs the soul to do so. The problem lies in our soul. Even for those who are already born again, the soul still has its freedom, it is free, it will only submit to the action of the Holy Spirit when it so decides. We often ask God to free us from something, but we have to understand that Jesus has already done everything on the cross of Calvary. What we do need is to take hold of our will in order to be transformed. God has already done what he had to do, which is why Jesus promises us an abundant life.

⇒ **John 10:9~10**

- In her song, Mary left a lesson in the verb tenses, which elucidate the chain of command coming from the spirit, coming from God's action.

⇒ **Luke 1:46~47**

46 ⇒ *'My soul magnifies the Lord, present.'*

47 ⇒ *'My spirit has rejoiced;'* in the original Greek it is past tense.

First the spirit received the joy of the Lord, it is in the past tense, *'my spirit has rejoiced, was glad'*. Then it came to the emotion, *'My soul magnifies the Lord'*, it is in the present. Everything in the Bible has meaning, even the verb tenses. First the spirit received the joy of God, and the soul then expressed the feeling.

⇒ **Proverbs 2:10~11**; Another example.

- The power of the soul is tremendous. The soul is the center of man's personality and influence; it is the heart of the matter. In the soul God has placed free will and man has to exercise it at all times; this shows that God did not make robots. God made free people; the personality, the individuality of each person, is free.

God is wonderful because, after entering the chain of command proposed by Him, after salvation in Jesus Christ, we use the command ***SPIRIT - SOUL - BODY***, and we think that we are the ones acting, we think that we are the ones making the improvements, but it is God. The mechanism is automatic, the command is from the spirit, but there was a decision in our soul to submit to this command.

- The soul is the axis of the human being; it will incline the individual towards spiritual things or towards carnal things. That's why the Bible says that there is a carnal man and a spiritual man, because the soul has the power to decide who will rule: the spirit or the body. Even those of us who already have a recreated spirit go through this internal struggle in the soul; we are in a process of continuous growth, where we go from being a carnal man to a spiritual man, through sanctification, by practicing the Word of God.

⇒ **I Corinthians 3:1~3**

⇒ **Hebrews 5:12~14**

⇒ **Romans 8:1~15**

- Man is not a robot who moves under God's will, who moves as God has programmed; the soul has full decision-making power. God's will is for the spirit to control everything. But what is the will of our soul? That's the question we have to ask ourselves. The revealed will of God is for our spirit, inhabited by the Spirit of God, to rule. In the first man, created in the image and likeness of God, this was the case. But now, we have to ask ourselves: what is my will? Is my will in line with God's will, is it the same as God's? Or am I wondering whether to let the flesh or the spirit rule? In His Word, God reveals His will for each of us and God always wants the best for us. His will is good, pleasing and perfect.

⇒ **Colossians 1:9~10;** *'To ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will.'*

⇒ **Romans 12:1~2;** *'You may prove what that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.'*