

Lesson 11

4.3. Spirit - Soul - Body

- In the last lesson, we saw how God formed man and how man is made up of **Spirit**, **Soul** and **Body**. Now we'll see what each part is like individually and how they interact with each other.
- In English translation of the Bible, three Greek words were translated as 'life'. However, these are different words, sometimes meaning life in the spirit, sometimes life in the soul and sometimes life in the body.
 - Life in the Spirit: **Zoe** (*Chay in Hebrew*); God's quality of life, life in the spirit, eternal life.
 - Life in the Soul: **Psyche** (*Nephesh in Hebrew*); rational life, life of the soul, the life of man.
 - Life in the Body: **Bios**; the present state of existence, the natural life, life of the corrupted flesh after the sin.
- We see that the Bible, in the original, deals with each part specifically. We will see that each of them has a personal center and attributes that are also specific, despite the very strong interaction between these parts; we can call them '*lives of their own*'. Remember that we are still talking about man as he was originally created by God.

a) Body

- ⇒ **Leviticus 17:11**; *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood.'* Some translations say: '*the soul of the flesh is in the blood*', and this brings a lot of confusion. The correct translation is *the life of the flesh is in the blood*. The words life and soul, in many passages in the Bible, have the same meaning.
- ⇒ **Leviticus 17:14**; *'The life of all flesh is its blood.'*
- ⇒ **Deuteronomy 12:23**; *'The blood is the life.'*
- ⇒ **Genesis 9:4**; *'Flesh with its life, that is, its blood.'*

- Flesh refers to the body, so the body has a life of its own. If a person cuts or injures themselves and loses a lot of blood, if they don't get help, including a blood transfusion, they die. Die because is the body finished? No, they die because what gives their body life, in its current form, is blood.
- We often say: the soul left the body, and the body died. Many people think: because the soul left, then the body died. That's not true. The Bible tells us: *because the body died, the soul left*.

- ⇒ **Genesis 35:18**; *'As her soul was departing (for she died).'*

If it were the other way around, no one would commit suicide. How can a person take their soul to die? They commit suicide by doing something to their body.

- We're mentioning this to understand that each of the three parts of man, in a way, is a personal center with a life of its own. The life of our body is in the blood. The body is a personal center with a life of its own; the body has a life of its own.
- When the body no longer has the life of the body, the soul leaves. Because the body has died, because it has stopped functioning, physically speaking (*due to old age or some other problem*), then the soul leaves, because it has nothing more to do there.
- But what does the body do? The body has attributes that are the body's alone, e.g. walking, drinking water, etc. Although it doesn't separate itself from the soul or the spirit in order to walk or drink water, these functions are the body's alone. The five senses are functions exclusive to the body: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching. Now, when I say, '*I love you*', it's not a function of the body, it's an emotion that is linked exclusively to the soul.

b) Soul

- The soul is the manifestation of the human being, its personality. The soul is made up of MIND, EMOTION and WILL. All the time we are working in these three areas; my intellect (*my mind*) is reasoning, I'm having some kind of emotion, and my will is the result of what I'm doing, it's what I've chosen to do.
- Will is the result of what my mind has proposed. Will makes concrete, manifest, what goes on in my intellect and emotions. Everything I do is because I have the will to do it. The soul is the center of our problems.
- It is impossible to understand the things of God with our soul, because God put the spirit in man to have communion with man in the spirit. Our intellect is interconnected with our senses and when it reasons or wants to understand something, it naturally says: '*I need to see*', '*I need to understand how it works*', '*If I don't understand, how will I believe?*' The things of God are spiritual and are by faith, you won't see anything. But the intellect asks to see.
- Imagine if all people didn't speak out, if they were like a post: they didn't open their mouths, they had no feeling, no intellect, no will, that would be nothing, that would be a post. What makes you come here? It was a decision in your soul. What made you put on these clothes today? What has brought your life to where it is? What makes you attract people to like you or not? What makes you have problems or successes? What makes people get to know you is for them to relate to you, to get to know the manifestation of your intellect, your will and your emotions. The soul is the manifestation of man on this planet.
- My soul is the center of communication with my fellow human beings; it is in this communication that friendship or enmity comes about. My soul is the manifestation of who I am and has nothing to do with the body or the spirit.
- When I go to a peaceful place, I say that it makes me happy and brings peace to my soul, or I say that I don't like it. Body and spirit have nothing to do with it, what I've expressed is a feeling, an emotion, and feeling is in the soul. It's true that the body will be led to see things, it will be commanded by the soul.

- The soul also has its own personal center; it acts and lives in the intellect (*mind*), emotions and will. It is in the soul that our '*free will*' resides, our will, which is sovereign. It can be influenced by the body or the spirit, but it is sovereign; when I decide something, it is decided.
- Soul and body are very interconnected. The five senses of the body: SEEING, HEARING, SMELLING, TASTING and TOUCHING, are the windows to my soul. What the five senses do is bring information to my soul. I see, I hear, then I react in my personality, in my soul.
- We can say that we are the result of what we see and what we hear. That's why we need to select what we see and hear, so that our manifestation is in the correct pattern. Everything in me enters through the ear or the eye (*in a normal situation*); it is taken in. So, my emotions and my mind are trained for good or bad, to laugh or be sad, based on what I see and what I hear.
- I FEEL, I WANT, I THINK, these are actions in the soul and only in the soul. The body has physical actions, but the soul expresses itself through the body. When you are happy or sad and people look at your face, they will notice, because the body reflects our soul.

⇒ **Proverbs 15:13;** '*A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance.*'

⇒ **Proverbs 2:10~11**

- If the soul influences the body, the body also influences the soul. There is a great deal of interchange between soul and body. The Bible calls this exchange, this very close relationship, the **OUTER MAN**; it is the manifestation of the soul influenced by the body.

⇒ **II Corinthians 4:16;** Our outward man corrupts himself, goes aging, is getting problems. We are talking about the fallen man, after the sin.

- On the other hand, our **INNER MAN**, which is our soul influenced by the spirit, is renewed day by day; this applies to people who have already accepted Jesus as their Savior and have a new, sinless spirit. We'll see later that there is a struggle between spirit and body, a very great internal struggle for control of the soul.
- The soul, influenced by the body, is concerned with the natural world. Receiving information through the body, the soul reacts towards the natural world and towards our fellow human beings. The spirit, on the other hand, acts and reacts towards spiritual things, acts and reacts towards the spiritual world.
- The Bible also defines what is called **NATURAL MAN** (*body + soul*) and **SPIRITUAL MAN**.
⇒ **I Corinthians 2:14~15;** The natural man does not understand the things of the spirit. So, with the soul and the body it is not possible to understand the things of God; this is basic to understanding everything.

- Natural man is so called because the soul and body communicate with the natural world. But although the spirit is isolated, it is there all the time. Natural man does not have a recreated spirit, so he does not have communication with heaven. Natural man only understands the natural world: what he sees, what can be explained, what he understands.
- The spiritual man, on the other hand, is the one who has his spirit recreated. ⇒ **I Corinthians 2:14~16**, tells us the difference between the spiritual man and the natural man. **V.16** points out that we can have the mind of Christ. With our spirit recreated, our soul returns to the condition of command originally created by God and then goes through the process called sanctification; the process of changing the pattern of the soul to everything that God has programmed. Sanctification is the transfer of the life of Christ, the pattern of God's Word, into our lives; that's why we change. When this happens, we begin to live what Paul told us:
 ⇒ **Galatians 2:20**; *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.*

THEOCENTRIC MAN
THE MAN CREATED BY GOD
GENESIS 2:7

