

THE INTERNAL WARFARE

HEBREWS CHAPTER NINE, VERSES ELEVEN TO TWELVE

A QUICK THREE-PART SUMMARY

There are three parts that makeup who we are. The **SPIRIT**, the **SOUL**, and the **BODY**.



The spirit is the vital part in each one of us that has been saved, **REDEEMED**, and through which we **COMMUNICATE** with God. The spirit manifests through the soul to the body. The spirit is made up of awareness, sensitivity, understanding, and motivation. The nature of a person's spirit determines how they behave.

The soul is an integration of three parts, **MIND**, **WILL**, and **EMOTION**. The soul is the valve between the spirit and the body. The soul regulates and controls that which is manifest from the spirit into the physical world. The soul is what governs the body's reaction to the physical or spiritual environments.

The body is the physical **STRUCTURE** of a person, which we use to relate to the environment. Hearing, feeling, seeing, smelling, and tasting all **GOVERN** the body.

THREE-PART WAR

Many of the personal battles we face today, like depression, setbacks, worries, anxiety, and fear, have to do with the battle between body, soul, and spirit. The battle that wages continually changes our behaviors, moods, and our reactions to the actual and imagined circumstances of life.

Here is what we face every day: Your body is the receiver of information through what we can see, hear, feel, taste, and smell. The information the body receives transmits the information to the soul. The soul analyses and believes it. (Seeing is believing - right?) The soul passes its beliefs, ideas, dreams, imaginations, and thoughts that result from the information from the body onto the spirit. The spirit conceives and analyses the information on the deepest possible level that we have. The spirit gives the soul direction for the body's reaction and response.



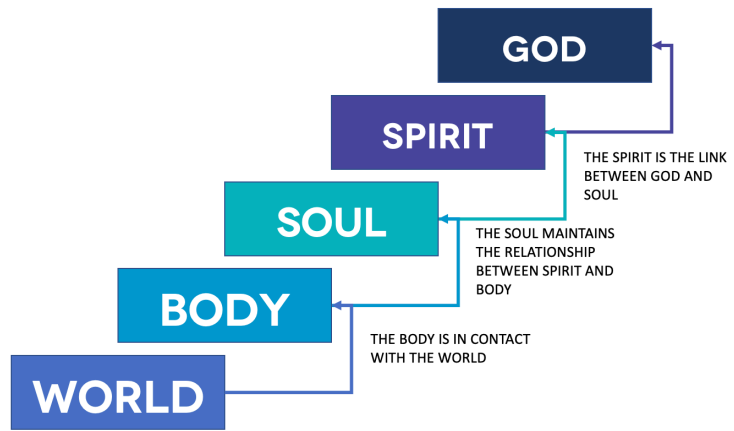
The Battle: Sometimes, the Body does not want to respond in the way the spirit dictates.

Now the soul is in a dilemma as it tries to adjust between the spirit's direction and the body's cravings.

You are in dangerous territory if your body and your unsaved spirit are always in agreement. The deterioration of mankind is directly linked to the deterioration of our spirit's authority.

WHEN YOU OPERATE WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD

When a born-again spirit comes into contact with the selfish cravings of the body, it will always be in disagreement with what the body is telling the soul to grant it permission to do. The



information the flesh gives is unrighteous. Because God is present in the born-again believer's spirit and sees only that which has been redeemed to Him, He sees our righteousness made possible through the born-again process that occurs in each of us through faith in Jesus.

The spirit then has the freedom to inform the soul of its righteousness and govern the flesh by releasing it from blame and shame, changing its base responses from selfish natural flesh-based living to super-naturally redeemed spiritual obedience.

WHEN YOU OPERATE WITHOUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD

You can be saved and born-again but still train your soul to respond more readily to the flesh than to your spirit. Even though the spirit disagrees with the requests from the flesh, the soul chooses to justify rather than Jesus' justification. The soul chooses its source of truth, and doubts the opposing source.

The soul tells the body that the information it is receiving from the body is unrighteous, and it needs to align with the truth that the spirit has given it. The body rebels and tells the soul that it prefers how the flesh stimuli feels and invites the soul to agree by justifying and resolving to excuses and gives in to the feelings of the moment.

We know how spiritually wrong something is, but we get emotionally tricked, not by the devil alone, but more often than not by our weak flesh.



We believe our flesh and doubt our spirit. We believe the lie and neglect the essential truth.

So the soul starts to clutter itself with what the flesh tells it to believe. It loses touch with the spirit's awareness, sensation, understanding, and Godly motivation. This disconnect leads to worry, anxiety, and fear.



YOUR STUDY SCRIPTURES REPEATED:

Hebrews 9:11-12 - Jesus obtained eternal redemption for us.

1 John 3:9 - Your spirit cannot sin.

Hebrews 10:1, 2 - no consciousness of sin.

Hebrews 10:10-14 - one sacrifice for all, forever; perfected forever.

Romans 6 - Why do I still sin? What effect does sin have on me? You're born a sinner with a sinful nature.



Write out your personal understanding of Ephesians 4:24, 1 John 4:17, 1 Corinthians 6:17, Colossians 2:9, 10, and Ephesians 1:13.

SUMMARY QUESTIONS



- What is the importance of the question: "How does it with your soul?"
- With today's study in mind, what is a good definition of sin?
- What steps can you take to enhance your spirit-motivated obedience?
- Spiritual disciplines correct "soul leanings". What are some spiritual disciplines that we can engage in that will help develop our soul's obedience?