



Year of Identity

THREEFOLD NATURE OF MAN 03: The Human Soul

MESSAGE

I Thess. 5.23 lets us know that the soul is part of our being, along with the spirit and body. Your soul is your personality – the decisions you make, the feelings you have, the things you prefer. Some people sum up the soul as “mind, will and emotions”, and that is a good summary of your soul.

Here are some Scriptures that help us see what the soul is all about:

- Psalm 139.1 – tells us our soul is where we know ourself
- Pro. 15.32 – your soul is where you receive instruction and knowledge
- Psalm 42.5 – the soul is where you get depressed
- Psalm 69.10 – the soul is what you humble with fasting
- Psalm 103.1 – the soul is where we bless the Lord
- SS 1.7 – the soul is where you fall in love with someone

Hebrews 4.12 says “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” So if the soul and spirit can be separated, it is obvious they are not the same: but the only way to tell the difference is with the Word of the God. The Word of God is quick – that means it is living, it is powerful – that means it works. And it can divide spirit and soul and let you know the difference. And knowing the difference makes a huge impact to your Christian life.

As we discussed last week, your spirit is totally pure and holy: it is Jesus on the inside, full of love, and peace, and joy. Now that might bring about some questions. If Jesus is in me, where is he? That's because spirit is the core of your being, and it is surrounded by your soul – your personality, your thought processes. Your soul stops the flow of power and love from your spirit just like a tap can stop water from flowing.

And that's how God designed you - He loves the idea of the spirit of man, the photocopy of God, flowing out of you with your personality. Look at the BIBLE: 40 different authors, so so different and yet it is 100% God's Word. All God, but still all man – not ever destroying the personality of the authors. When God wants to speak today, He wants to wrap the message up in your humanity.

The problem is our souls are fallen. Your soul is not the “all things that become new” in 2 Cor. 5 – your thoughts were still the same after you became a Christian. **We restrict the power of God through our soul which still has the same old thoughts. The new life**

in our spirit is jammed up through our old souls! So we need to deal with our soul! We need to take charge of our thoughts.

Read 2 Cor. 10.3-5. It starts by saying “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh” – in other words: YOU ALL LIVE IN THIS WORLD – but it’s not our battleground. Our weapons are not carnal – we don’t need carnal weapons – we have mighty weapons that cast down strongholds. You don’t need to manipulate people to get your own way – you don’t need to try and make people feel guilty, to put other people down, to scare people. You just need to trust God and use His Word!

The first thing we need to do is cast down IMAGINATIONS – the strongholds that are stopping revival, stopping prosperity, stopping healing, stopping life in abundance – STOPPING UP THE SPIRIT are YOUR IMAGINATION, which is YOUR IMAGINATOR! Which is PART OF YOUR SOUL! All the power and love and glory IN YOUR SPIRIT – but your imagination is in the way! God tells you that you are healed and prosperous, but your mind cannot conceive that image so you struggle to believe and the tap of your soul stops the flow in your spirit.

We have to deal with every HIGH THING – any idea that exalts itself as GOD! Anything that contradicts the BIBLE! I didn’t think in the midst of the WORD MOVEMENT THIS COULD HAPPEN BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE TELLING US THE BIBLE ISN’T GOD’S WORD, the BIBLE ISN’T INSPIRED. Cast down that thought! Cast it down! The thoughts in your soul might be facts, but the truth is only found in the Word, and the truth always beats facts. The facts might be you are sick, but the truth is that you are healed. The facts might be you are broke, but the truth is that you are rich. The facts might be you are depressed, but the truth is that you are anointed with joy.

We have to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. The good news is we don’t have to take thoughts captive to our obedience – that’s never going to work. What it means to take thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ is to remember His obedience, to remember His complete work. If you are ill, remember His obedience took that sickness. If you are struggling with temptation, remember His obedience has taken your sin and made you the righteousness of God.

If you continue to take thoughts captive, you start to change the way you think. This process is called saving your soul by James, renewing your mind by Paul and prospering your soul by John but it is the same process –taking the old, limited, selfish thoughts out of your mind and replacing them with living, new, righteous, unlimited, holy, big, healthy, wealthy thoughts.

Getting born again does not save your soul – it saves your spirit. Look at James 1.21:

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Filthiness means any dishonourable action. You cannot successfully renew your mind while you are behaving dishonourably: stealing ideas and plans that are not yours, speaking about people behind their backs. Naughtiness means the active desire to injure other people. You cannot successfully renew your mind while you want to harm other people – you need to rest in your destiny, and lay aside all jealousy and malice.

Then you can renew your mind: by receiving the word of God with meekness. Meekness is the ability to take second place, and it’s a lost virtue in our modern rat-race culture.

We all want to be first, and we don't mind taking other people down to do it. We have to be able to take the second place to be able to live a successful life. And nowhere is that more important than when it comes to God's Word. **WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS HAS TO BECOME FIRST**, what I think, feel or understand has to become second! Most Christians do let the Word of God interfere with the soul at all – that's why their lives are such a mess! What the New Covenant says about you is the truth, and that is what you need to think. **PUT THE WORD FIRST**. **PUT THE WORD FIRST** – it will **SAVE YOUR SOUL**. It will bring your mind in line with your spirit and let the powerhouse of the spirit **OUT**. **THIS IS WHY WE DON'T SEE IT IN THE CHURCH – IN THE WORLD**. This is why we **ARE NOT WRITING THE BOOK OF ACTS IN LONDON**. In Acts 2.42 all the believers devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching: **NEW COVENANT OF GRACE**. We need to be devoted to the apostle's teaching to change our thinking to let that power out. Devoted means to be to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing. It's time for us to turn the TV off, turn the phone off – and to get into the WORD. It's time to never give up and put the Word first. To get rid of naughtiness – to stop talking about others behind their back as if they are the cause of your lack of success and realize the only one reason you are not healthy, wealthy, successful, ministering life to people is because your thought processes are unhealthy, poor and full of images of failure. It's time to take this call to change the way we think seriously. The world wants you to think you are poor, sick and a loser; but you need to ignore the world and get into the Word and find out who you are in the spirit.

God has saved your spirit through the **EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**. Now you need to get into the WORD and get your soul saved. A man with a saved spirit and a saved soul is dangerous – He runs at Goliath, He heals the sick everywhere he goes, wealth and riches are in his house, he walks in love and above the curse. It's available for all of us – in our spirit, just trapping it and stopping it up – the **SOUL** is the tap, the valve – open the valve – how? **PUT THE WORD FIRST**

Good news – as you put the Word first, God is there – **Psalm 23.1 HE RESTORES MY SOUL** – leads to still waters and green fields. Let Him lead you – give Him the time. Devote yourself to the apostle's teaching.

Paul phrases it differently but talks about the same process:

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12.2)

It's so important you do not conform to the world – that takes a lot of grit and guts and a lot of courage to stand up to the world. Companies spend millions on adverts because they work – media can influence you. Be careful. Wigglesworth wouldn't read a newspaper. That's fanatic – fanatic raised at least 17 people from the dead. That's not just because he was ANOINTED – He had the same reborn spirit you have – he just renewed his mind – did not let the world tell him how to think, and let the power that is also in you, flow out of his spirit into the world. You need to become a **RENEGADE – A REBEL TO THE WORLD**.

Be transformed means to make the change from caterpillar to butterfly. Time to change into somebody unrecognizable. No more crawling, but flying. No more chewing leaves, but drinking nectar. No more dark, dank, ugly – but now an object of beauty.

The purpose of renewing your mind is to know the will of God in your mind and prove it! God does not have three wills: good will, acceptable will, perfect will. God is not schizo! He has one will that is good, acceptable and perfect.

- GOOD – agreeable, pleasant, to make you happy: beautiful
- ACCEPTABLE – pleasing to you, personal level
- PERFECT – wanting nothing, complete

God's plan for your LIFE is those three things! Most people don't even believe that, let alone prove it! Not everything that happens on earth is God's will. If you don't get this, your Christian life will always be at the baby stage, and if you want to know God's will – get in the WORD. The will is the WORD. If you want to prove the will – see it manifest. You need to renew your mind. This is the same process as SAVE YOUR SOUL. You get rid of old thoughts and you put in new ones – you are rewiring your mind. You are changing your thought patterns. THIS IS WHAT WILL WORK. CHANGE YOUR MIND – CHANGE THE WORLD. The only reason we are not seeing the world where it should be is as Christians we think too small, too much like the world and we are not devoted to the apostle's teachings.

John says it like this: you will be in health and prosper EVEN AS your soul prospers (see 3 John 2). You are not sick to learn something. You are not poor because mum was poor and that's just it. It's not gender, skin colour, anything. IT'S YOUR SOUL. IT'S YOUR THINKING. Every problem is a thinking problem. But that's actually good news – because you can change your SOUL.

MINISTRY

Let's end this group by meditating on the Word.

Firstly find a verse in the New Covenant (Ephesians 1-3 is a great place to find some) that inspires you.

Then there is a three step process:

1. Mutter the verse over and over. By doing that you are like a cow chewing the cud, getting all the nutrients out of it
2. Personalizing the verse. By re-phrasing it so it about you (e.g. By His stripes, I was healed), then keeping on muttering it
3. Visualizing it. You need to see this verse in your imagination. You need to see your future the way the Word says it. You need to use your imagination for the kingdom and not let the world conform you to its thinking.