

The Spirit controlled Life

For the believer to live for the ultimate purpose God has for him, he must not meet the situations of life "*in the flesh*," (that is, not listen to the cry of his emotions, his human intellect or his own will), but, rather, he must learn to listen to the Spirit of God as He guides the believer through of his "*spirit*."

The clear teaching of God's Word is that when the believer is "*born-again*," that which is "*born of the Spirit is his spirit*" [John 3:6]. It is the believer's "*spirit*" which is made alive and, as the believer has physical senses, so now, (since accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior), he has "*spiritual senses*," and, if these spiritual senses are dull, he will be unable to gain the necessary data to make proper decisions.

Man's *spirit* was to rule, however, when Adam sinned, his "*spirit*" died, man died in his *spiritual* life!

Whenever the believer accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, he receives new life in his "*spirit*." He now has "*spiritual senses*" which can give him data for decisions and guidance in life.

At this juncture in our study of the book of Job, it is important that the student has an clear understanding, from a Scriptural point of view, exactly what man's "*soul*" comprises of and what the believer's "*spirit*" is.

1. **Man's emotions**. The Biblical word, translated from the Greek language for "*emotion*" is "*kardea*." (One New Testament usage of this Greek word, "*kardea*" is "*heart*".) This word is the Greek word for "*affections*," or the faculty of experiencing various emotions - [For example, this word is used in Luke 24:32 and Acts 21:13 - and many other places in Scripture.]
2. **Man's intellect**. The Biblical word, translated from the Greek language for "*intellect*" is "*Nous*" and refers to the faculty of knowing or reasoning. This word is found in Luke 24:45; Romans 1:28; 1 Corinthians 14:15, 19; Ephesians 4:17; Philippians 4:7; Colossians 2:18; 1 Timothy 6:5; 2 Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:15; Revelation 13:18 and 17:9.
3. **Man's will**. The Biblical word, translated from the Greek language for "*volition, or will*" is "*boulema*" and refers to the faculty of choosing, purposing and deliberately designing. It is found in Romans 9:19 and 1 Peter 4:3 and other Scriptures.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 speaks of the three-fold division of man when it states, '*I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body is preserved blameless.*' The Greek word "*kai*," which is translated "*and*" is used between spirit and soul as well as between soul and body. This grammatical construction clearly shows that the spirit differs from the soul - and that the soul differs from the body.

1. PHYSICAL APTITUDES AND ABILITIES

- Seeing • Feeling • Hearing • Smelling • Tasting

2. PSYCHOLOGICAL APTITUDES AND ABILITIES

- Feeling various emotions - [Represented by Eliphaz]
- Thinking, reasoning, remembering - [Represented by Bildad]
- Exercising the will and making choices - [Represented by Zophar]

3. SPIRITUAL APTITUDES AND ABILITIES

- Comprehending the essential nature of God
(Referred to as "*light*" in Scripture)
- Discerning right and wrong
(Referred to as "*conscience*" in Scripture)
- Comprehending the basic meaning of life
(Referred to as "*wisdom*" in Scripture)
- Sensing the spirit of others - ("*sensitivity*")
- Directing basic drives and emotions - ("*creativity*")

Only through the believer's "*spirit*" the he can discover the dimension of living and personal fulfillment which God desires him to have. In order to develop the potential of the *whole person*, the believer must be made alive in his "*spirit*" and allow this dimension of his being to be the director of his life.

Even though the believer has been *born-again* by the Spirit of God, he still continues to experience conflicting struggles in his **emotion**, **mind** and **will**. However, God has made it possible for the believer to be "*transformed*" through his spirit, as he allows the Holy Spirit to control and the Word of God to give direction.

HOW DOES "TRANSFORMATION" OF THE BELIEVER'S SPIRIT TAKE PLACE?

How can the believer make correct decisions in his life?

The Psalms often pictures man "*speaking to his soul*" - man in deep **MEDITATION** with his inner being. The Bible has much to say about "*meditation*."

Joshua 1:8 states, "*This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate therein day and night; for then shall you make your way to prosperous and then shall you have good success..*"

Psalm 1:3 teaches, "*But his delight is in the Law of the Lord and in His Law does he meditate day and night . . . Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*"

MEDITATION INVOLVES THE THREE AREAS OF MAN'S "SOUL"

The concept behind the word "*meditation*" can be likened to that of a cow chewing its cud. Just as the cow brings up, again and again, that which is has eaten, so the believer should also recall, over and over again, that which he has received from God's Word.

1. THE BELIEVER'S MIND MEMORIZE GOD'S THOUGHT STRUCTURES

The believer saturates his mind with God's Word.

One day a family living on the edge of a desert was amazed to see that seeds had sprouted in the salty desert sands behind their home. No one could figure out how this happened, since they had often tried to grow things there with no results. The mystery was solved when they discovered that every day the mother had thrown her dishwater out the back door. After months and months, the salt, which had hindered any growth, was washed out of the sand. Then one day she threw some seeds out the back door. A short time later the plants began to sprout.

In the same way, as the believer saturates his mind with God's Word, he will wash out thoughts opposed to his spiritual life.

Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father in John 17:17, "*Sanctify them [that is, all believer's] by the truth, Your word is truth.*"

Jesus said to His followers in John 15:3, "*You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken unto you.*"

2. THE BELIEVER'S EMOTIONS PERSONALIZES THE SCRIPTURES

The believer allows God's Word to become the full expression of his emotions by putting *personal pronouns* in the Scriptures he has memorized.

3. THE BELIEVER'S "WILL" VISUALIZES GOD'S TRUTHS AND THEN MAKES A DEFINITE DECISION TO TURN THESE TRUTHS INTO ACTIONS WHICH WILL BUILD A CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

The believer must purpose to become a "*living translation*" of God's Word.

A review of James 1:21, 1 Peter 1:9 and Hebrews 10:39 would be helpful
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THE MESSAGE OF ROMANS 8:13-14

"If the believer lives according to the dictates of self . . . [that is, his mind, will and emotion] . . . he is doomed to die, but if, he lives by means of the Spirit, he keeps putting to death the deeds of his self life than, in the fullest sense, he shall live."

The "*death*" which is referred to in this text does not necessarily mean "*the second death*" in hell - to be separated eternally from God, but, rather, the "*death*" referred to here is to be separated from **God's intent and purpose** for the believer's life!

The message of Romans 8 is . . .

"Walk, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit!"

Romans 8:5 states, "*They that are after . . . [live after] . . . the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after . . . [live after] . . . the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*" This verse

is stating that, "*If the believer minds [dwells on] the things of the flesh. . . . [the mind, will and emotion] . . . then he will live after the flesh, but, if he minds . . . [meditates on] . . . the things of the Spirit, then he will live in the Spirit.*"

Romans 8:6, backing up this same thought, states, "*Because to be carnally minded is death . . . [separated from God's potential] . . . but to be spiritually minded is life and peace!*"

Review our study on "*Death to self*"

The Bible is consistently warning the believer against living a "**carnal**" Christian life, that is, a life which is controlled by his flesh nature - [his mind, will and emotion] The solution to this major problem is what the book of Job is all about.

The message which runs throughout the whole of God's Word
- *the message of living in the Spirit.*

Living life in the Spirit is facing each situation, not by responding in the flesh, but rather by tuning in, by our "*spirit*," to the Spirit of God and seeking His guidance.

The greatest command God has given to the believer in the Bible is, "*Be filled with the Spirit*" [Ephesians 5:18]. ("*filled*" has the meaning of "*being controlled*")

The whole passage surrounding this command in Ephesians 5:18 has to do with relationships in our daily life; husband and wife, parent and child, and our relationships outside the home in a work-a-day world.

The believer is not to obtain final direction only from the "*human plane*," because God alone can rightly control his life. Getting rid of one's "*self-life*" is like peeling an onion . . . layer by layer, upon layer. It is a tearful process at times - extracted like a tooth from the jaw, in blood and agony, however, "*life in the Spirit*" is worth it all!

The believer's "*spirit*" must be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, bringing his "*soul-powers*" under the control to his *spirit* - his **mind** grasps the Holy Spirit's counsel, his **emotions** centers on the Holy Spirit, and his **will** determines to do what he ought to do!

The first truth of the Sermon-on-the-Mount is to realize that the believer is "*bankrupt spiritually*" . . . [that is, he does not have any ability in his natural life to live a spiritually life, therefore, he is "*poor in spirit*."]

FOUR WAYS OF HINDERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

God's Word speaks of four different ways in which the believer can hinder the Holy Spirit from guiding him in his "*spirit*," they are:

1. QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT - 1 Thessalonians 5:19

The word "*quench*" comes from the idea of smothering a fire. 2 Timothy 1:6 instructs the believer to, "*Stir up the gift of God.*" The believer must not "*dampen the fire of the*

Spirit" or stifle the Spirit's voice as He speaks to the believer's spirit, but rather the believer must "*stir up*" that fire, that is, "*rekindle the fire and keep it burning brightly.*" The word-picture that is drawn here is that of fanning slumbering ashes into a flame by blowing with a bellow.

2. RESIST NOT THE SPIRIT - Acts 7:51

The believer is told that, resisting the Holy Spirit, is to be "*stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart,*" or, is to be "*stubborn and fleshly.*"

[Circumcision, in Biblical usage, was a sign of the "*flesh-life*" of man.]

To "*resist the Spirit*" is to live by the flesh - the mind, will and emotions

3. NEGLECT NOT THE SPIRIT - 1 Timothy 4:14

The Greek word which is translated as "*neglect*" here means, "*to fail to treat with attention,*" and, has the meaning of one who refuses to give attentive heed to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

4. GRIEVE NOT THE SPIRIT - Ephesians 4:30

The Greek word translated as "*grieve*" here means, "*to offend, distress, or hurt by causing sorrow.*" God is "*jealous over the believer with a Godly jealousy,*" 2 Corinthians 11:2.

God desires the believer to live for Him and, when the believer lives for "*self,*" he grieves the Holy Spirit.

Why does God want to control the believer? Is it just because God wants satisfaction? Of course not! God wants the believer to experience completeness of life. God desires to accomplish His purpose within the believer's life and the designed procedure by which God works this out what is best for the believer, and this can only take place as he submits his "*spirit*" to the Holy Spirit's control.

A sign in a laundry read:

"We live to dye, we dye to live.

*The more we live, the more we dye,
and the more we dye, the more we life."*

Change the word "*dye*" to "*die*" and you have the best possible formula for the Christian life!