

Spirit, Soul and Body

by Rene Brown

Heb 4:12 (NKJV) "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

1Th 5:23 (RSV) "May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I. Tri-Part Man

Man is a coherent whole and yet he exists in three parts or realms.

A. Spirit

1. God is Spirit

John 4:24 (RSV) "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

2. Human spirit: The human spirit of man is most especially that part of him made in the image of God. (Nowhere does the scriptures indicate God has a body.)

Gen 1:26-27 (RSV) "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

B. Soul

1. The soul is composed of our mind, our will and our emotions. This is based on looking at the whole of scripture overall.

(Note that none of these three are physical, i.e., the mind ≠ brain, the brain is physical, the mind is an intangible.)

2. The division between soul and spirit is not completely clear in scripture and to some degree they seem to be used interchangeably.

3. Gen 49:6 (RSV) "O my soul, come not into their council; O my spirit, be not joined to their company; for in their anger they slay men, and in their wantonness they hamstring oxen."

C. Body

The body is that physical part of us that can be sensed with the five senses of sight, touch, smell, taste, & hearing.

II. Status of These Three Parts of Man

A. Spirit

1. The spirit of man was in communion with God in the Garden of Eden.

2. They were able to talk.

a. Gen 2:16-17 (RSV) "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.""

- b. Gen 3:9 (RSV) "But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?""
- 3. Man's spirit died in the garden
 - a. Gen 2:16-17 (RSV) "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."
 - b. It is obvious man's body and soul did not die.
 - Gen 5:5 (NKJV) "So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died."
 - c. Death spiritually speaking is to be separated from God.
- 4. In Christ, man is made alive in his spirit through the re-birth, and the spirit is once more connected to God.
- 5. The only outlet for the spirit is through the soul of man.
- 6. The spirit is completely redeemed, made whole, made holy, made righteous.

B. Soul

- 1. In the garden, man had a tremendously powerful soul.
 - He was able to name all the animals on the earth, both beasts and birds. This took tremendous intellect.
- 2. Man's soul is still powerful and much of what is done in the earth, in or out of the church, is done by soul power and not in the spirit.
- 3. Man's soul dominates all of life in lost men and most of life in saved men.
- 4. The soul is a completely un-trustworthy part of man to guide him.
 - The soul is mostly dominated by feelings out of man's emotions.
- 5. When man is re-born, his soul can begin to come back under the influence of God provided man allows his spirit to dominate his soul.
- 6. Through will power, spiritual men are able to accomplish many things.
- 7. These things may or may not be of the Lord.
- 8. In the garden, man came into a knowledge of "good and evil".
 - a Ever since then, man has been offering God "the good" instead of being guided by the Spirit of God.
 - b Mostly this is what happens in the church.

C. Body

- 1. The body of man is deteriorating slowly and will die at the end of perhaps 60 - 100 years.
- 2. In the resurrection of the just, man will be given a new body similar to the resurrected body that Jesus had after His resurrection.

III. Crucified with Christ

A. The old man or old self is dead

- 1. (Rom 6:6-7 RSV) "We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For he who has died is freed from sin."
- 2. 2Cor 5:14 (RSV) "For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died."

- B. Rom 7:4 (RSV) "Likewise, my brethren, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God."
- C. Col 2:20 (RSV) "If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations,"
- D. Col 3:2-3 (RSV) "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

IV. Eternal Versus Temporal Realm

A. 2Cor 4:18 (NKJV) "while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

B. Eternal Realm

1. Unseen realm is more real than the seen realm.
2. Unseen realm is where God dwells.
3. Eternal realm has no time dimension - God is eternal and timeless.
4. Eternal realm is where I AM dwells, it simply "IS" [Present of verb "to be"]
5. Everything in this realm is simply "NOW". (There is no yesterday and no tomorrow.)

God's realm simply IS and He sees everything in eternity all together.

Exo 3:14 (NKJV) "And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'""

6. This is why we can be "crucified with Christ" who died 2,000 years before our birth.

It happened in the realm where God dwells - the timeless realm.

C. Temporal or temporary realm

1. We can touch this realm with all five of our senses.
2. This where man exists in his bodily and soulish state.
3. This realm is controlled by time.

Spirit	"I AM"	Ultimate Reality
Wholeness	Eternal	Changeless
Complete	Unseen	Timeless
In Process	Seen	Time-Based
Need	Temporal	Changing
Matter	"I am becoming"	Appearances

4. Temporal or seen realm is only temporary and is a time realm.

D. These realms Co-exist, side by side, one seen, one unseen.

E. We generally think of these as “above” or “below” or “heaven” and “earth”. In actual fact these realms exist side by side, one seen, one not seen.

2Ki 6:17 (NKJV) "And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

V. Above the line, we are perfected.

A. Heb 10:14 (NKJV) "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

B. Col 2:10 (NKJV) "and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

C. 2Cor 5:21 (NKJV) "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

D. Col 1:22 (NKJV) "in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight;"

VI. Below the line, we “are becoming.”

A. Being sanctified, made holy

B. Have needs

C. Emotions fluctuate

D. Behavior changes

E. Experience growth

VII. True life is above the line

A. Living water in the spirit

John 7:38 (NKJV) ""He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

B. In the spirit realm, we already are, have already arrived, are already made perfect in Christ.

C. We are seated with Him, we are “in Christ”.

D. Here our spirit is one with His Spirit

E. Above the line, life is eternal - in Him.

F. We are one with God

1Cor 6:17 (NKJV) "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him."

G. Dead to sin, alive to God

1. Rom 6:7 (NKJV) "For he who has died has been freed from sin."

2. Rom 6:6 (NKJV) "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

VIII. Free not to sin

A. In the spirit realm, we are free of sin as we are holy, blameless, perfect, righteous.

B. In the temporal realm, we can choose not to sin.

C. Natural or fallen or sinful man does not have such a choice - he will sin.

1. Cor 2:14 (NKJV) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

D. When we put our focus on the Lord - completely - walking in the full understanding of who and what we are in Christ, sin will diminish in our lives.