

Soul of Man

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7

Purpose: Destiny in Christ, Free Will

When God created man, He had a plan. He did not form Adam of dust and Eve of his rib, and place them on earth without a purpose for every person born of his seed. Our destiny has been established at creation, and it becomes our responsibility to know it once we are reborn into the spirit realm. Whether we fulfill our Father's predestined role depends on our accepting our heritage.

We are all born with a soul tainted with sin and a spirit waiting to be awakened. God has given us the gift of a free will to decide how we will conduct our life: by our soul, or by the spirit; therefore, of the world, or of the Kingdom. Man can live by default with the inherited sins of Adam, or by the Spirit of God as a saint. *The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth and the second is the Lord for heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:45-47*

Often for the born-again believer, this transition is not made for we do not completely sever the influences of the world. Even as a child of the Father, we can be living without His Almighty blessings and promises. When God gave man a free will, it was that he would choose the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our soul is influenced by the natural, or what our senses reveal through hearing, seeing, and touching the tangible things of the world. Our soul is the essence of who we are as a person in this carnal life. It is what makes us human. Through the soul we express desires, opinions, and emotions with our unique personality and characteristics. It exemplifies our attitudes, attributes, and aptitude. We give no thought to who we are in the natural, for it is clearly seen and understood. Often, our spirit within receives little, if any, attention going unnoticed and un nourished in God's Word.

The soul cannot accomplish God's preordained plan. When we are tuned-in more to the world through our self efforts, we are unable to achieve our destiny for God. *It is better to trust in the Lord than put confidence in man. Psalm 118:8* Many are missing wonderful blessings and gifts merely for lack of separating the soul from the spirit.

There are doctrines that teach the soul and spirit are the same, so when speaking of the soul we are also referring to the spirit and vice versa, intertwining them as one. To highlight the separation, we can verify in the book of Thessalonians the soul from the spirit. *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Thessalonians 5:23 We have verification of the trinity of man.

God did not create man to be a robot, but fashioned him with the ability to think. He wants man to freely return to the Kingdom without coercion which is the reason man was given a free will. He instructed Adam and Eve to not eat of a certain tree within the garden, and it was their free will that enabled them to choose to be obedient, or not. Without the free will, God would be a dictator and man His slave.

Man continues life as though nothing has changed; however, everything should be new for the believer as the Holy Spirit teaches how to live a spirit-filled life. *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.* Titus 2:12 God is instructing each child to step out of the corrupt world, out of unbelief and all things unclean, away from our narcissism, and live with Him in spirit.

Society has taught us to name it and claim it, go for it, obtain a quick fix to whatever ails us on a personal level. We adhere to the same attitude in our prayers to God. We expect an instantaneous answer in our time of need and become disillusioned when one is not immediately forthcoming. However, if we have an intimate relationship with our Father, we would know this is not the way to communicate with Him. It may be our carnal attempt at reaching God, but it leaves us discouraged and without a response.

Our unwavering prayer of faith should always begin and end in thanksgiving and praise giving glory to the Father and His Son with an absolute and unshakable trust in the knowledge that what we ask to be manifested in the natural has already been established in the spirit realm. We are merely calling what is in the Kingdom of Heaven down to earth.

It is through our soul that we experience happiness, laughter, and joy or fear, depression, and anger. Likewise, it is through the soul, we perceive and experience physiological issues such as illness, injury, emotional pain, and so forth. If we allow our thoughts to command the body and not listen to our heart, we become submissive to the world even though we have a rebirth in Christ. *Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons.* Deuteronomy 4:9 It can be a challenge to relinquish ones own willfulness.

We have learned in the Old Testament how God dealt with the soul of people, their carnality, because they did not have Christ. They had a spirit as every person does; however, there wasn't the manifestation of a quickening of their spirit, or a baptism with the Holy Spirit as Jesus had not yet come as the Savior. Therefore, the people lived strictly in the natural, and it is how God

communicated with them and dealt with their disobedience. *And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?* Deuteronomy 10:12-13

In the New Testament, the Living Word was made flesh and Christ came to earth and taught all things of the Spirit. His disciples and followers often struggled to comprehend what He was teaching, so Jesus performed miracles and healing to exemplify there is another world, and it was from where He came, a place other than what the eye can see. He taught about the Father of all creation and an eternal life to those who accepted His truth. God was communicating with man through his soul while Christ brought the Spirit of God to man. We have to forget about ourselves and lean completely on Him placing our trust in His Word. God is not withholding His greatness, but rather we are limiting ourselves by our own stubbornness.

There are many things that obstruct our ability to reach God. First to consider is sin. Do our thoughts, actions, and deeds reflect goodness, kindness, and compassion? Do we strive to be like Jesus as He is our example? What we consider as living a sin free life perhaps according to God, we may not be. Even though we are reborn in Christ, and our sins are forgiven, we can still be inclined towards a sinful nature because of our human characteristics.

Second to consider is wavering. Do we hold to God's Word with resoluteness, or are there times when we waver in our faith wanting to combine man's wisdom with a desire for God's power? Is there doubt that God may not answer? If we question God, then we do not know Him as we should because we are to have certainty in the knowledge that He has already provided. Sinning and wavering can go undetected and both are in direct violation of Kingdom laws.

When man's soul is in control, the spirit is not. There will always be worldly manipulations attempting to integrate into our thoughts, steering us in a direction away from the Kingdom. The spirit is directly obedient to the Word; therefore, we should not allow our soul, self thought, to get in the way of a relationship with the Father. We will never be wiser than the One who created us, for the child is not smarter than the parent. *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.* Matthew 10: 24

Nothing is greater or more satisfying than living for God, so apply the gift of a free will and choose life in the spirit. Take to heart the laws of the Kingdom and be faithful to your heavenly Father. There is immense reward to those who choose wisely.

Excerpt from book: Everlasting Love, God's Greatest Gift

For: Spirit Strong Living

Author: Patricia Marlett

