

Body & Soul Redemption Can Save Your Life



**UNDERSTANDING SPIRIT SOUL AND
BODY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO
EVERY BELIEVER. IT COULD BE A
MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH. IT'S THE
FOUNDATION TO THE
UNDERSTANDING OF THE REST OF
SCRIPTURE.**

www.mcclainministries.org

BODY & SOUL REDEMPTION

Did you know that a Christian can actually die from sickness or disease while the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lies dormant within them? Or, did you know that a believer can be overcome with depression, anger, and bitterness all the while possessing God's love, joy, and peace in their spirit?

It's true, they can and they do. Why? Because they really don't understand what changed when they were born again and therefore have difficulty receiving the promises of God. The Bible says that every born-again believer has undergone a complete inner transformation.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ." (II Corinthians 5:17-18)

It doesn't say that all things are becoming new or have the potential of becoming new; they are new the moment you are born again. But, in order for that to make sense, you must first understand how God created you.

God's Word clearly teaches that we are three-part beings, but very few Christians have a functional understanding of spirit, soul, and body in their daily lives. Intellectually, most Christians believe they're a three-part being, but functionally, they act as though they're only made up of body and soul. They're confused about the operation of the soul and spirit, seeing them basically as the same thing.

Even Strong's Concordance fails to distinguish all three! It defines "spirit" ("pneuma" in the Greek) as "the immortal soul." However, in my study of God's Word, I have found a very distinct difference between spirit and soul. Your spirit is your innermost part, not your "immortal soul." I Thessalonians 5:23 makes it very clear: **"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"**

If you were talking to me face to face, you'd be seeing my body but speaking to my soul. The word "soul" is defined by some as your mind, will, and emotions, and while that's certainly true, it's incomplete. Your "conscience" should also be included in

that definition. Your soul is really what most people call their personalities.

You can feel both your body and your soul and are receiving information from them all the time. For example, if I put my hand on your shoulder, you would know that I touched you through your physical senses. I could also make you feel happy or sad, or could even hurt you without any physical contact but simply by the words I speak. Those words are processed by your mind and the result of their effect is often expressed in your emotions.

It's easy to know how your body feels, what's going on in your mind and what emotions you're experiencing. However, your spirit is much different; it cannot be accessed in any natural way. **John 3:6 says, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."**

He meant that there's no direct connection between the two. They are interrelated, but spirit is spirit and flesh is flesh. You simply cannot contact your spirit through your five senses or through your mind, will, or emotions. Therein lies one of the great problems of the Christian life!

If you don't understand that spiritual reality can't be felt, then you'll be confused when God's Word declares that you have the same power that raised Jesus from the dead living in you (Ephesians 1:18-20).

If you think spiritual truth can be discerned through your natural senses, then you'll be baffled when the Bible says that you're a brand-new creature who can do the same miraculous works that Jesus did (II Corinthians 5:17, John 14:12).

The apparent disparity between your natural experiences and God's Word will cause you to throw up your hands in frustration and conclude, "It must not be true." It's the understanding of spirit, soul, and body that unlocks the spirit realm so you can experience who you are and what you have in Christ.

In the natural, the spirit realm can't be seen or felt, the only way to accurately perceive spiritual truth is through the Bible. Simply take God's Word and believe it! Jesus said in **John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."**

God's Word reveals spiritual reality. If you want to know what your spirit is like, you must find out from the Word. God's Word is spirit and life! It's the reflection of who you really are.

When you look at your face in a mirror, you aren't really seeing yourself, you're viewing a reflection. Even though it's only a reflection, you have learned to trust it and act on what you see. God's Word is just like that mirror; it reflects perfectly who you are in the spirit.

"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:23-25)

You must look into God's mirror and trust the spiritual reality you see! It reflects your new born-again spirit, your innermost part. However, it does not reflect your body or your soul.

Although full payment has been made for your glorified body through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, you still have a corrupted body. One day it will be redeemed and changed into an incorruptible one, but for now, you still must live in the same body you had before you were saved.

Your soul wasn't saved either. So you may have the same thoughts and emotions you had before you were saved. And because of that, some seriously doubt whether or not they were saved. They don't understand that the change took place in their spirits. Typically, your body and soul are both impacted by what happens at salvation, but it's not total nor complete.

The good news is, you can change your mind. In fact, we are commanded to do so. Romans 12:2 says, "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."

Your soul can be transformed to the degree that you renew your mind, change your attitudes, and conform to the Word of God. This should happen, and it's in the process of happening, but it didn't happen automatically when you were saved.

In your soul, old things did not pass away and all things haven't yet become new. For that reason, you could actually die from sickness or disease even though you have all of the power that raised Jesus from the dead residing untapped within your spirit. It's like dying of thirst while leaning against a well full of life-giving water.

Think of your soul like the valve on a faucet. It controls the rate and volume of the flow of the spirit into your body. If your mind is renewed and in agreement with the Word, the valve is wide open. But if it is in agreement with what your body is feeling or what your emotions are experiencing, then the valve is either closed or in the process of closing.

Your soul has the power to keep every drop of life-giving power from ever reaching your physical body, or flooding your body with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. If the valve is open, you'll experience healing, deliverance, anointing, victory, power, joy, prosperity, and more. So, keep it open.

This revelation of the relationship of the spirit, soul, and body has transformed my life. When I realized that God had already given me everything I needed and it's all contained in my spirit, it set me free. All I needed to do was release it. That simple understanding changes everything.

The Christian life isn't a process of "getting from God." It's a process of renewing the mind and learning to release what you've already received.

If you don't understand that you have already received all that you will ever need (in your spirit) at salvation, there will always be an element of doubt. You may know it's possible or even promised in the Word, but you'll be trying to perceive it in the mental, emotion, or physical realm, and that's a formula for failure.

That erroneous concept can also result in a performance-based relationship with God (i.e. if you're good enough, if you read the Bible enough, if you pay your tithes, and on and on it goes in an attempt to motivate God to give you what you need). It's the misconception that God hasn't already given you everything and somehow, you have to make yourself worthy enough to get it.

You're already worthy because of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. He paid the price for everything you will ever need. In fact,

you've already got it. It's just a matter of understanding the relationship of the spirit to the soul and body.

Understanding spirit, soul, and body is critically important to every believer. It could be a matter of life and death. It's the foundation to the understanding of the rest of Scripture.

Our minds are actually the battleground. Our spirits are complete (Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 2:10), and our bodies will do what they are told, but our soulish parts (which include our intellect) have the responsibility to choose or exercise our free will. So in that sense, a person's soul is the master control over our whole person. For the born-again person, the spirit is the driving or life-giving force, but the soul has the last say-so because of the will. God will not violate our free will except in final judgement. Therefore, it is necessary that we get this "mind of Christ" (which we have received in our spiritual man) functioning in our soulish minds so we can make the right choices. This is done by studying the Word of God. God's Word is the wisdom of God (Luke 11:49), written down so that our soulish man can read and understand it. But II Corinthians 3:6 shows us that the mere knowledge of God's Word is not enough. We must have spiritual understanding because God's Word is spirit and it is life (John 6:63).

When the knowledge of God's Word enters our soulish minds through hearing or studying it, our spirits bear witness with the truth and impart wisdom, which is the ability to apply knowledge. This then becomes revelation knowledge, not just facts about God (you could program a computer with that), but the knowledge of God which has been divinely quickened in us by God through our born-again spirits.

This explains why the Word of God seems to work for some people and not for others. On the surface it may appear that all knew the Word, but in truth, only those who overcame had the Word of God made alive on the inside of them through revelation knowledge. God's Word works! And if we have the true revelation of God's Word in our hearts, we will overcome the world.

How do we receive the Word of God being made alive and powerful in our lives as Hebrews 4:12 talks about? One important way is by meditating God's Word. Too many times, we get so hungry to learn God's Word that we don't take sufficient time to let the mind of Christ in our spirit man give us a full disclosure of the power that is in those words. There was

a time in my life when I was so busy reading every book and going to hear every preacher that the Lord told me to stop all of that and make the truth He had spoken to me a reality in my life. I am not saying that we should stop filling ourselves with the knowledge of the Word, but we need to realize that only the Word which has been mixed with faith (which comes from our spiritual man, Romans 10:10) will profit us (Hebrews 4:2). We would be better off with only a small amount of the Word in us if it was a true revelation to us from God than if we had vast amounts of Scripture with only carnal understanding. The early disciples proved this because in comparison to the completed Word of God that we have today, they did not have the majority of the New Testament scriptures. The Old Covenant scriptures were not readily available to them, and yet they still transformed their present-day world.

This revelation knowledge is what has been missing in the religious realm's presentation of God's Word. Carnal preachers have been putting out carnal knowledge to carnal people and therefore, the true power of God's Word has not been released. But in these last days, God's revelation knowledge is beginning to flow among His people more than ever before. Believers are not responding to the titles before or behind a person's name but rather to the power of God's Word, regardless of which vessel it comes through, "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" (I Corinthians 4:20). You can have this revelation knowledge, for God has already given to you the "mind of Christ" (I Corinthians 2:16).

Start today to renew your mind through the Word, Prayer and Meditation. Renew Your Mind . . . The Rest Will Follow!

This message barely scratches the surface of this all important subject. This is the type of teaching that you will want and need to read or listen to again and again until it becomes true revelation knowledge to you.