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Spirit, Soul And Body #1

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Discerning between our spirit, soul and body, discerning our inner man, renewing our minds. We are brand new in Him, our life in God means there is no darkness in Christ but only light.

Many of us have difficulties learning to walk in victory and it is usually because we don't understand the difference between spirit, soul and body. Roman chapter 7 tells us the way we were created, Genesis chapter 1 tells that we were made in the image and likeness of God, and John chapter 4 tells that God is a spirit.

1 Thess 5:23 "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." KJV

This verse tells us that man is made of a three part being and He wants us to be sanctified wholly and complete. What is your spirit, soul and body?

Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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." KJV

Our spirit, soul and body we understand these parts, however here we learn the word can divide the spirit and soul, being a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart. It is easy to identify the body.

2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." KJV

If we have been born again we are a new creature. Our bodies are still the same, but the spirit part of us is a brand new creature. We become a spirit of light instantly, becoming new happens immediately, it is not something that happens over a period of time. We have the very life of God in our spirits.

Col 2:10 "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" KJV

Christ comes to take up habitation and is on the inside of us as a result of the new birth, in Him resides everything that we would ever have need of. The challenge is how do we pull that out of us into an outward manifestation where it becomes a reality to us, the becoming a new creature. Knowing the difference between the spirit and soul will enable us to understand ourselves better and other people. When we are talking to others we are only seeing their physical bodies but we are talking to the soulish part of them. Soul is the emotion, the imagination, the intellect and our conscience is there, our will is there, depending on the words that we are speaking we may be able to see a reaction from them. Our body contacts the five sense realm; smell, touch, taste, seeing and hearing and with our soul we touch the intellectual world. Our spirit touches the spirit realm the inward man of the heart.

Phil 1:21-23 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:" KJV

Living in the flesh or body we find ourselves having a choice to make because the spirit of man is eternal. Our body is shown in different bible translations that it can be a tent, a dwelling place, a house, something for the spirit man to dwell in while on earth. Our body enables the spirit man to function here in the earth and without the body being a place for the spirit of God to function, there is no other place for us. This is part of being a new creature in Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." KJV

When we talk about the spirit of man and the soul of man, we are talking about the complete man. However, in our soul the old things did not pass away, things in our mind, will and emotions, the things that we were taught are still there. Occasionally these things will try to rule over our spirits and unless we have renewed our minds with the word, they will be there.

The following scriptures gives us the way to renew our minds. Renewing thoughts and attitudes show what happens when we are under pressure. We begin to think like God, seeing what He sees and hear through His ears.

Rom 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 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" KJV

Eph 4:23 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;" KJV

Eph 4:23 "Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." NLT

Col 3:10 "And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it." AMP

We have a responsibility after the new birth to clothe ourselves with the new spirit self. To clothe ourselves with the new spirit is a decision that we make, we train ourselves to do what we sometimes don't even think about but just do because of renewing our minds. This is a process, a growing pattern. The following scripture instructs us how to accomplish this process, the saving of our souls.

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." KJV

When we become born again we become new creatures, everything is new our spirit is a new species and in our spirits is the very life and nature of God, Jesus is there and our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. We can be sad, depressed, bitter, discouraged but on the inside is happiness, peace and joy. These things are there and yet we are not aware they are in our spirit man because we have began to live out of our soulish realm, there will be no victory there because of being dominated by our emotions, your soul will continually determine your attitude by what you are hearing and not hearing and whether you are going to walk in victory. When we understand that we don't live in the soulish part even though it is a part of us, but learn to live and walk in the spirit of man by faith and faith is not determined by what is contradictory to the word of God, we do not walk by our soul or our five senses spiritually. We walk out the victory, all those virtues that are on the inside of us, everything that pertains to life and godliness has been given to us through the precious promises of God.

Rom 12:2 "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." KJV

*conformed means thinking without God, shaped by outward pressure

*transformed or changed, it is a process of taking form, always has time involved, example of a butterfly making a change

Paul is telling the people not to be letting the world dictate what everyone thinks should be going on, don't be pressured by other people into what their ideas may be, but use wisdom and listen to what God is saying. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, the mind is part of the soulish part of us, the change will come about in a new growing pattern, a continual process of going from glory to glory. The renewal is not something that is done just one time, but has to be done continually day by day. We are not like the world we are different, we started putting on the new man, what happened in our spirit, it is our choice because victory is on the inside of us. Jesus will not do this, it is something we have to do ourselves, as an inward change takes place.

Christ in you the hope of glory. Learn to walk after the spirit and don't allow yourself to get into the soulish realm. Renewing your mind means having no flaws or weaknesses that are a result of sin and that we are able to be transformed. How do we renew our minds or become transformed through the renewing of our minds? The following scripture speaks of that process and is easy to read and understand.

Rom 12:2 "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." MESSAGE

Read Romans chapter 4, verses 18-20, Abraham could have accepted this idea knowing that this was how the world considered He and Sarah's chances of having a child or he could accept the fact that God had spoken to him and his faith was in what God had told him. They could have conformed and accepted what the world was saying, but faith comes out of our spirit, we walk by faith not by our senses.

Rom 4: 18-20 "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;" KJV

What is something we can do to cooperate with God in renewing our minds? The responsibility is ours, there are guidelines that will enable us to do this.

1) apply the word personally - finding scripture that is relevant to you during this

season of your life and the challenges that you are facing or you will be conformed to the world thinking like they do

2) think carefully or ponder how it applies to you - how does the word apply to us, all that Jesus has done for us individually, thinking about it

3) will it change the situation? turning it around into victory, may take awhile, how will it change, think about it regardless of the season of our life, is there a course of action that needs to be done?

4) agree with it, don't argue with what God has said, don't refuse to act on what has been told to you

Abraham continued to believe even though faced with all the impossible things that were said to him regarding the promise that God has made to him and Sarah.

Renewing our minds, meditating on the written word, murmuring it over and over, don't think like the world thinks. Taking care to what we are hearing and how we are hearing could cause problems to the way that God would have us think.

Learning to journal or write down what is being said to you by God so that you won't forget is a great way of remembering all the promises that have been spoken over a lifetime.