

Spirit, Soul and Body

Part 5: The Human Spirit

Ps Justin Leong (1/5/16)

1. Scriptural reference to the human spirit

- i. 1 Corinthians 2:11, Zechariah 12:1, 1 Corinthians 5:4
- ii. 1 Corinthians 14:32, Hebrews 12:23

2. Discerning the spirit

3. The 3 main functions of the human spirit

- i. Conscience
- ii. Intuition
- iii. Communion

4. The interrelationship of conscience, intuition and communion.

- i. Conscience judges according to intuition and intuition is related to communion or worship in that God is known by man intuitively and reveals His will to man through intuition

5. The function of the unregenerated spirit

- i. It functions no differently from the way the soul does
 - Genesis 41:8, Proverbs 14:29
 - Proverbs 17:22, Isaiah 29:24

NOTE: These show us the works of the unregenerated spirit and indicate how similar its works are to those of the soul

The reason for not mentioning soul but spirit is to reveal what has occurred in the very depth of man. It discloses how man's spirit has become controlled and influenced completely by his soul with the result

that it manifests the works of the soul. The spirit nonetheless still exists because these works come from the spirit. Though ruled by the soul the spirit does not cease to be an organ.

NOTE: From "The Spiritual Man" by Watchmen Nee

We can know by Scriptures that our spirit possesses at least these three functions. Although unregenerate men do not yet have life, they nevertheless possess these functions (but their worship is of evil spirits) - Some people manifest more of these functions while others less.

This does not however imply that they are not dead in sins and transgressions. The New Testament does not consider those with a sensitive conscience, keen intuition or a spiritual tendency and interest to be saved individuals. Such people only prove to us that aside from the mind, emotion and will of our soul, we also have a spirit. Prior to regeneration the spirit is separated from God's life; only afterwards does the life of God and of the Holy Spirit dwell in our spirits. They then have been quickened to be instruments of the Holy Spirit.

Our aim in studying the significance of the spirit is to enable us to realize that we as human beings possess an independent spirit. This spirit is not man's mind, his will or his emotion; on the contrary, it includes the functions of conscience, intuition and communion. It is here in the spirit that God regenerates us, teaches us, and leads us into His rest. But sad to say, due to long years of bondage to the soul many Christians know very little of their spirit. We ought to tremble before God, asking Him to teach us through experience what is spiritual and what is soulish.

Before the believer is born again his spirit becomes so sunken and surrounded by his soul that it is impossible for him to distinguish whether something is emanating from the soul or from the spirit. The functions of the latter have become mixed up with those of the former. Furthermore, the spirit has lost its primary function-towards God; for it is dead to God. It thus would appear that it has become an accessory to the soul. And as the mind, emotion and volition grow stronger, the functions of the spirit become so eclipsed as to render them almost unknown. That is why there must be the work of dividing between soul and spirit after a believer is regenerated.