

I will confess and praise You for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awful wonder of my birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well; my frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret and intricately and curiously wrought in the depths of the earth (Psalms 139:14,15). God said, Let Us make mankind in Our image, after our likeness, and let them have completely authority over the fish of the sea, the birds, of the air, the beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7).

As we see in these verses above, man is made of dust and of the breath of God. The soul of man was produced at the point that the spirit was created by the breathing of God into his nostrils; his spirit is then the source of life and since the original word life in Hebrew is in the plural form, it may refer to both the spirit and to the soul according to Watchman Nee. The breathing of God into man's body is a source of man's life and not the Spirit of God entering man's body. Man is spirit, soul and body; the body without the spirit is dead and the body without the soul lacks individuality. The way we think, the things we love, the way we do things show that we are comprised of a soul. The soul is, without a doubt, the part that connects the spirit to the body.

Since the soul is comprised of the will, intellect and of the emotions, it has the power to choose to obey God or not. When it chooses to obey God then the spirit within him will rule as in obedience to God. Because the mind, the control center of the body, is much entwined with the will and the emotions, it must be renewed always by the Holy Spirit within the man who is a believer, for him not to walk according to the soul's desires expressed in the flesh or body. The soul by nature is sinful and in need to submit to the Holy Spirit Who abides in the spirit of the regenerated man. When the soul chooses to disobey God, the desires of the flesh are then satisfied through the behavior of the corporal body, but the desire of the spirit is crushed, because soul cannot satisfy spirit and flesh at the same time.

The body is the visible part, the instrument through which the soul expresses itself; it is where the senses reside. The soul intermediates between the spirit and the body and without it the spirit has no connection directly to the body and vice-versa. The soul is the personality of man; and the spirit is the life of man. Man with only body and spirit is useless; he is like a car without gasoline, and the start plugs. He needs the soul which is comprised of the will, emotion and the intellect (the mind) for him to be useful, imaginative, creative, which distinguishes him from the animal world.

The spirit occupies the most inner part of man; it is in this level that man communes with his Creator, Yahweh. As the temple of His Spirit, man has the responsibility before Him to obey. It is

in this most inner part of men that he hears Yahweh. According to Watchman Nee, man's spirit comprises also of three functions: the conscience, the intuition and communion.

The conscience's function is to distinguish right from wrong and to accuse man when he does wrong; the conscience, independent of the outside influence, judges and accuses man. The intuition, as a sensing organ, is very different from the physical sense of the soul. It senses certain things with certainty without the influence of the mind, emotion and will. The believer must pay attention to the voice of his conscience and the teaching of intuition, as they function under the influence of the spirit; communion is that function of the spirit that worships Yahweh. Man can truthfully worship Yahweh only in his spirit, according to the words of Yahshua, A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).

On the connection between soul and spirit, soul and body there is a perfect union of transmission allowing man to function and be normal. The soul links the spiritual world to the physical and stands between them. When man was created in complete perfection, his soul was then submitted and in harmony with his spirit. Things changed after he fell to sin and no longer is the soul submitted to the spirit. For the believers, there is a battle inside them between the soul and the spirit, as Paul so expressed, For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is right and good, evil is ever present with me and I am subject to its insistent demands (Romans 7:18, 21).

We see here the soul leaning toward the fleshly desires in its substantial power. The soul, man's prime factor, must be in submission to the spirit, for the body not to fall into sin. When the soul magnifies Yahweh, the spirit rejoices in Him, as we read in Luke 1:46-47: And Mary said, My soul magnifies and extols the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. When the soul of the believer enters in communion with the spirit, it is really communing with the Holy Spirit of God. In the act of submission of the soul to the Spirit, the believer can then worship Him in an intimate relationship, as Mary expressed here. Soul and spirit are united to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.