

SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY (Part 3)

Distinguishing between spirit and soul

For the Word that Yahweh speaks is alive and full of power; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the **dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit**, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). The distinction between spirit and soul is clearly seen here in this verse. To believe that spirit and soul are one, is erroneous, as calling night day and day night. What is soul is soulish –flesh; what is of the spirit is spiritual. The soul is the personality of man, which dies with him; without a body the soul is non-existent; the spirit however is immortal; it will continue until the time when it is resurrected either unto salvation or unto condemnation. It is a must for the believer to divide between them for him to differentiate between thoughts that come from the spirit and thoughts that come from the soul.

The Word of Yahweh penetrates the dividing line of the soul and spirit, and between the joints and marrow- the physical part of man. Here we see the confirmation that man has spirit, soul and body. The spirit of the believer is the abode of Yahweh; the soul is the home for the mind, emotion, and will. These two controls the body. When the soul heeds to the Holy Spirit, Who lives in the spirit of the believer, it is renewed and acts in agreement with the Spirit. The division of the spirit and soul by the Word of Yahweh found in Hebrews goes deeper than just the soul. If the soul and spirit were one, the Living Word of Yahweh would have defined them as so; but we read that it divides between soul, spirit, and body. Only under the guidance of the Holy Spirit residing in the spirit of man can he discern one from the other. When the Word of Yahweh penetrates into the soul of man, the Holy Spirit convicts, teaches, guides in all truth, renews the mind and brings him closer to Him. Yahshua is Himself the Living Word of Yahweh, “And the Word was made flesh and lived among us”. In flesh He surrendered all to the Father and completed the work entrusted to Him. As the Living Word, He reached the soul with conviction of sins cleansed and saved it through His blood and revived the spirit of man with His Spirit. In His work of redemption, Yahshua made distinction between the spirit and the soul; He saved the spirit and renewed the soul. Paul says in Romans eight verse twenty-nine, For those whom Yahweh foreknew, He also destined from the beginning to be molded into the likeness of His Son. The soul must be in complete submission to the renewing of the Holy Spirit, a distinction that the believer must recognize in the division of the spirit and the soul. When a person is born again, the spirit of faith is imparted to his spirit and not to the soul. Faith then gives man the spiritual feelings of true peace and joy. That happens in the sphere of the emotion; therefore, the soul is the recipient of them. The soul in itself has nothing to offer that is good because man is sinful from his roots. For this reason the soulish life is sinful and difficult to forsake as we read it in the words of Paul, “The things I want to do, they I do not do.” This is the struggle the new born again believer goes through his entire life. But through faith, the victory that overcomes the world, we will someday experience a complete victory over sin. In the distinction between spirit and soul the believer must recognize the power of the mind, of

the emotion and of the will to do evil, for this reason he must submit his soul to the control of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh every day.

The believer must believe in the division and separation between the soul and the spirit to be discerning in his following Yahshua, and in the understanding of his position in Christ. It is in the spirit of man that Yahweh is interested because it is there that He resides; it is there that our relationship and fellowship with Him take place. It is in the contrite spirit of man that he receives forgiveness; Contrition of the spirit gives the Spirit of Yahweh space to do the work of sanctification in the believer's life. The soul under the control of the Spirit of Yahweh is discerning and willing to surrender to Him. Knowing how to distinguish between the works of the spirit from the soul is to have achieved a higher level of spiritual growth. Paul says, the person who is united to the Lord, becomes one spirit with Him (I Corinthians 6:17). When man is born again, his spirit becomes one with the Lord's; it becomes the temple of the Spirit of Yahweh. Notice that it is not the soul that becomes one with Him for it is in the level of the soul- the natural part of man, that we have our spiritual struggles. Thoughts and purpose must be lead away captive into the obedience of Messiah (II Corinthians 10:5); emotions must be temperate influenced by the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience (forbearance), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; the desires of the soul must be surrendered to the will of the Spirit, "Not my will, but your desire will be done". When the believer gives in to the desires of the soul, he becomes weak and powerless, for if you live according to the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you are putting to death the deeds prompted by the flesh, you shall live forever, for all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God (Romans 8:13-14).

The distinction between the spirit and the soul is that what comes from the soul is soulish (flesh); what comes from the spirit is spiritual. They are of different nature.

The soul of man must pass through death to be transformed into the image of Yahweh. Live not I, but Yahshua! My soul has been crucified with Christ; the breath I take, I take by faith in complete trust in the Son of Yahweh, who has given me His life through His death. Not my desires, not my emotions, not my thoughts, but the desires, emotions and thoughts of the Holy Spirit who lives in my spirit. Let it be discerned in your mind the difference between the two and grasp the truth that will set you free to know between the spiritual and the soulish.