

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle?*

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First Love Ministries, Inc.  
PRAYER STUDY #178

### **THE SPIRIT VERSUS THE FLESH**

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [of human devising], but mighty through God to the pulling down [demolishing] of strongholds [fortresses], casting down imaginations [vain reasoning and over analyzing] and every high thing [high mental thought or thing] that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God [the Word], and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3-5

We are a tri-part being made in the image of God.

1. *And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."*  
Genesis 1:26a
2. *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 the Lord Jesus Christ.* 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:23

Spirit, Soul, and Body

1. The Spirit is the real you. The scripture often refers to this as the Inner Man. Your spirit was dead in trespasses and sins until you accepted Christ in your heart, and your spirit was born again. This was an instantaneous work of grace. The spirit wants what is of God and is God conscious.
2. You were born with a Soul. The Soul is the Mind, Will and Emotions. The Soul is renewed over a process of a lifetime by the Washing of the Word. Therefore, the Word is most important in a believer's life, not only because it is a weapon of warfare against the enemy, and not only because it gives us the pattern we are to live by and exposes the lies of the enemy, but also because it causes our mind to come in alignment with the Word of God. The Soul wants what is of self and is self-conscious so we have to grow through the Word to the point that our desires become synonymous with His desires. Again this is a process over a lifetime.
3. The Body is the carton you come in. It is controlled by the 5 senses: taste, see, feel, hear, and smell. The Body is constantly dying little by

little, and the Lord wants our *flesh nature* to be dead. When Jesus comes, we will get a glorified body. When we are in proper alignment, our Spirit is in control, followed by our renewed mind, and our Body will operate under the power of our Spirit Man.

(Note: When scripture uses the word *heart*, it is generally referring to both spirit and soul. And again *Inner Man* is synonymous with *spirit*, and *flesh nature* is used in reference to our body.)

### **The Results of Walking in the Flesh**

1. **We are open to temptation.** Matthew 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*
2. **We have sinful impulses which lead to death.** Romans 7:5 *For when we were in the flesh, the sinful impulses, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*
3. **There is no good thing in us.** Romans 7:18a *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing...*
4. **We are open to condemnation.** Romans 8:1 *There is, therefore, no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, but after the Spirit.*
5. **We don't please the Lord.** Romans 8:5-8 *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be. So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*
6. **You have a lust problem.** Romans 13:14 *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*
7. **You shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.** Galatians 5:16-21 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But, if ye are led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousy, wrath, factions, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and the like; of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they who do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. The Living Bible translates those works of the flesh this way: *sexual immorality,**

*impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outburst of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin.*

8. **You are rebellious(despising government) and self-willed.** 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Peter 2:8-10 (*For the righteous man [Lot] dwelling among them [people of Sodom and Gomorrah] in seeing and hearing vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds), the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise government. Presumptuous are they: self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.*

### **The Result of Soulish Religion**

Soulish religion is not aligned properly under the spirit. It is often full of arrogance, haughtiness, opinions, pride, boastings, dominance, pushiness, unbelief, disobedience, self-willed, lack of commitment, unfaithfulness, no punctuality, no reliability or dependability. It is telling God where you are going and what you are going to do and asking Him to bless it, instead of surrendering your life to God's life and asking Him what He wants done. We must allow the Spirit of the Lord to deal with our soul nature so that we can come out as someone who will glorify Christ and release the Spirit of God to people rather than manipulating and influencing with our personalities, popularity or good looks, which appeal to soulish thinking. The soul is the seat of the source of most of the problems we have in conforming to the image of Jesus. Since it is also the seat of personality, we should be conforming our personalities to the character of Jesus, the pattern Son. It is not that God wants our personalities dead. He wants us to reckon ourselves dead, meaning no longer independent. When you are born again, you lose the right to be your own God, and your spirit should be your authority over your soul. (Much of this information came from Randy Shankle in *The Merimos*.)

The soul is made up of the mind, will and emotions:

Mind: imagination, reasoning, thoughts logic, intellect, understanding

Will: decision, choice, intent, purpose, desire, determination

Emotions: intangible feelings such as hatred, love, anger, etc.

To overcome the domination of our soul, we must be washed by the Word:

James 1:21 *Wherefore, lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*

Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

Ephesians 5:25-27 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

### **Walking in the Spirit**

1. **You produce fruit.** Galatians 5:22-25 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control, against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

The Message, Galatians 5:25-26 *Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.*

2. **You receive eternal life.** Galatians 6:7-10 *Be not deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have, therefore, opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

3. **You have no confidence in the flesh.** Philippians 3:3 *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*
4. **You are alive in the Lord.** John 6:63 *It is the Spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life.*
5. **You are a candidate for the Manifested Sons of God Company.** Romans 8:13-14 *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

When we walk in the Spirit, we allow our spirit to give control to the Holy Spirit within us. We become responsible for neither grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit.

### **Grieving and Quenching the Spirit**

1. Believers grieve the Holy Spirit when they do things outside His Will. *And grieve not the holy spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.* Ephesians 4:30
2. Believers quench the Holy Spirit when they don't do what He prompts them to do. *Quench not the Spirit.* 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:19

Rick Renner, a Greek scholar, tells us, "Many years ago, when I first studied the word "grieve" in Ephesians 4:30, I ran to my bookshelf and pulled out my Greek New Testament to discover exactly what the word "grieve" meant. I found that this word was taken from the Greek word *lupete*. This surprised me, because the word *lupete* is from the word *lupe*, which denotes a pain experienced between two people who deeply love each other. This word *lupe* normally is used to picture a husband or wife who has discovered his or her mate has been unfaithful. As a result of this unfaithfulness, the betrayed spouse is *shocked, devastated, hurt, wounded, and grieved* because of the pain that accompanies unfaithfulness. This tells us, first of all, that the relationship that exists between us and the Holy Spirit is precious! The Holy Spirit is deeply in love with us. Just as someone in love thinks about, dreams of, and cherishes the one he loves, the Holy Spirit longs for us, thinks about us, desires to be close to us, and wants

to reveal Himself to us. But when we act like the world, talk like the world, believe like the world, and respond the same way the world does, we cause the Spirit of God to feel shock, hurt, and grief. You see, when we deliberately do what is wrong, we drag Him right into the mire of sin with us, because he lives in us and goes wherever we go.”

Renner goes on to say, “The word “quench”...is taken from the Greek word *sbennumi*. The word *sbennumi* means *to extinguish, smother, suppress, douse, put out, snuff out, or to quell*. It most often means to extinguish a fire by dousing it with water. In some places it means *to evaporate or to dry up*. There is no doubt what Paul is trying to tell us. If we ignore the Holy Spirit’s voice long enough and often enough, eventually we will become spiritually hardened and will no longer be able to hear Him when He does try to speak to us. It will be like His voice *evaporates or dries up*, and we will hear it no more.”

Holy Ground  
Geron Davis

As I walked through the door I sensed His presence  
And I knew this was a place where love abounds  
For this is the temple, Jehovah God abides here  
And we are standing in His presence on holy ground.

In His presence there is joy beyond measure  
And at His feet peace of mind can still be found  
If you have a need, I know He has the answer  
Reach out and claim it for we are standing on holy ground.

CHORUS

We are standing on holy ground  
And I know there are angels all around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in His presence  
On holy ground.