

PRAYER STUDY #55
Is Your Religion Soulsh?

Soul vs. Spirit

(based in part on *The Merimos*, by Randy Shankle)

For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged 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. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Hebrews 4:12-13

TERMS

1. The Greek word for “dividing asunder” is *merismos*. Merimos is the act of making a distinction between the spirit, the soul, and the body of man.
2. Heart: Soul and Spirit
3. Spirit: the real you, that which is dead in trespasses and sin but is born again by the Spirit of our God – ***The spirit wants what is of God and is God conscious.***
4. Soul: Mind, Will, and Emotions – ***The Soul wants what is of self, and is self conscious.***
5. Mind: imagination, reasoning, thoughts, logic, intellect, understanding
6. Will: decision, choice, intent, purpose, desire, determination
7. Emotions: Five senses, plus intangible feelings such as hatred, love, anger, etc.
8. Body: the physical body, our outer appearance or the carton we come packaged in

SALVATION

1. Salvation for the soul is instantaneous when you are born again.
2. Salvation for the spirit comes progressively.
3. Salvation for the body comes in the future.

SOULSH RELIGION

Soulsh religion (that is not aligned properly under the spirit) 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 manipulation and influencing with our personalities, popularity, or good looks, which appeal to soulsh thinking. The soul is the seat if the source of most of the problems when 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.

Colossians 3:3-9: *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds...*

Our objective is to become spirit ruled. But how do we do this?

1. BE WASHED BY THE WORD

- a. James 1:21 - *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and ^[a]overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*
- b. Romans 12:1-2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your ^[b]reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- c. Ephesians 4:23 - *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind*
- d. Hebrews 8:10-11 - *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.*
- e. Ephesians 5:25-27 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might ^[a]sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

2. DENY SELF

- a. Matthew 16:24 - *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*
- b. 1st Corinthians 15:31 - *I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

3. CONSIDER JESUS

- a. Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*