

## UNDERSTANDING THE TOTAL MAN (I Thessalonians 5:23)

The generally perception of what makes up humanity is a soul and body. Most believers take for granted that man is a soul rapped in a body. The spirit and the soul are considered the same and that is considered the spiritual part of man. If this is not correct (and it is not) then we have been trying to live spiritual lives without knowing spiritual truth. Our text verse is not a play on words but is a direct scripture given to us by God Himself. What is so hard to understand?

**Genesis 1:26-27** Notice God **CREATED** man and woman at the same time **IN HIS OWN IMAGE**.

**John 4:24** Jesus testifies to the fact that God is a Spirit and must be worshiped in spirit and truth.

**Genesis 2:7** Here God **FORMED** man and breathed life into him and man became a living soul.

**Genesis 2:21-22** After God formed man He later **MADE** woman with the rib of man.

If the word of God is absolutely true then God **CREATED** man and woman as “spiritual”, then formed the “bodies” and then breathed life into them and made man and woman a “living soul.”

**Hebrews 4:12** Notice in this verse how God's word divides *soul, spirit, joints and marrow* (body).

### Spirit

**John 4:23-24** The spirit in man is that inner place (holy of holies) that communicates with God. The faculties of the spirit are Faith, Hope, Worship, Prayer, Reverence, Love, Gifts of The Spirit.

**Genesis 2:16-17** Most people rationalize this verse away by saying God meant they would died physically. We ought not to call God into question when a verse is so plain. God said “for in that day...thou shalt surely die”. It was in that very day their spirit became a death chamber until God forgave them and “covered their sin” with the coats of a bloody sacrifice.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** Notice again that spirit is used with a small 's' signifying the verse is not talking about God's Holy Spirit. When we pass from this life to glory the spirit that is in us returns to God with our soul. If a person dies without God their soul goes to hell but that spirit returns to God.

**I Corinthians 2:11-14** Paul speaks here about lost mankind not being able to understand the things of God but those that are saved can utilize our spirit to communicate and understand the things of God.

**Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 8:16** The human spirit requires the spark of regeneration before it comes alive to the ability to understand the things of God.

**Romans 1:8-9** Paul's words of love and commitment are keys to transition to our next topic.

### Soul

**Genesis 2:7; Luke 16:22-31** We must learn not to confound the spiritual with the carnal in our endeavor to be all that God would have us to be. The soul of man is the site of our personality. It is the seat of our emotions, the will, the intellect, our passions, appetite, affections, all our desires, the notion of right and wrong and the place we refer to as 'the heart of man'. Our soul stands between our 'spirit and our 'body'. For those of us that are saved the soul decides if we will serve God or serve ourselves.

**Luke 1:46-47** Notice the difference between Mary's soul and her spirit. Mary had to allow her will (soul) to be humble enough to recognize and give honor to God before her spirit could rejoice in God.

**Genesis 34:8; I Samuel 18:1; II Samuel 5:8; I Peter 2:11** These are but a few verses that show the different emotions attached to the soul of man, love, hate, desire, warfare, etc.

**I Corinthians 3:16** Paul shows us that our lives are representative temples of God. The spirit represents the 'holy of holies', the soul represents the 'holy place' where priests prepare for worship, and the body represents the 'outer court' where all external things happen.

**Romans 12:2** Our soul needs to be fed continuously with the bread of heaven, the word of God.

## **Soul (contd.)**

**Romans 7:25; 12:16; Philippians 2:5** It is our minds that Satan is after, (**I Peter 5:8**) and he will do anything to keep us from feeding on spiritual things.

**Proverbs 4:23** The human heart is a key aspect of the soul. The state of the heart will determine our attitude toward life, people and God. If the heart is carnal because of what we feed it the soul will not have the will power to tend toward the things of God and the body will do what the heart tells it to do.

## **Body**

**Genesis 2:7, 19** According to the scriptures, the human body is the least important part of who we are. The bible tells us that this useless body will return to the ground from where it came. However, it is the body that gets the most attention because Satan makes the soul prideful and full of vanity in order to keep mankind from seeking eternal blessings and spiritual knowledge of a great and wonderful God.

**Romans 12:1** Our body is prone to sin because of all the worldly attention we give to our soul. Anything we do with our body affects our spiritual life so God wants us to give sacrifice it to Him.

**Romans 6:11-12, 16** The scriptures warn us and exhort us to be watchful of the dangers that are living with each of us in this body of sin.

**I John 3:15-17** The only way we can keep ourselves from using our body to sin is to stay away from the sins and pleasures of the world.