

Functions of Spirit, Soul and Body

NOTES.....

I. The Creation of Man Tripartite (Gen.2:7; I Thes.5:23)

- A. When God first created man He **formed him of the dust** of the earth, and breathed “ the breath of life” into his nostrils.
- B. As soon as the **breath of life**, which became man’s **spirit**, came into contact with man’s **body**, the **soul** was produced.
- C. Thus, When the inbreathing of God entered man’s body it became **the spirit of man**; but when the spirit reacted with the body the soul was produced (Job 33:4).
- D. This explains the source of our spiritual and soulical lives.
 - 1. “ Formed of the dust of the earth” refers to man’s **body**
 - 2. “Breathed into the nostrils the breath of life” refers to man’s **spirit** as it came from God; distinct from the Holy Spirit (Rom.8:16)
 - 3. “Man became a living soul” refers to man’s soul when the body was quickened by the spirit and brought into being a **living and self-conscious man**.

II. Respective Functions of Spirit, Soul and Body

- A. It is through the physical **body** that man comes into contact with the material world. Hence we may label the body as the part which gives us **world-consciousness**.
- B. The **soul** comprises the intellect which aids us in the present state of existence and the emotions which proceed from the senses. Since the soul belongs to man’s own self and reveals personality, it is termed the part of **self-consciousness**.
- C. The **spirit** is that part which we commune with God and by which alone we are able to apprehend and worship Him. Because it tells us of our relationship with God, the spirit is called the element of **God-consciousness**. (Most Noble Part)
- D. God dwells in the spirit, self dwells in the soul and senses dwell in the body.
 - 1. By his spirit man holds intercourse with the spiritual world And with the Spirit of God, both receiving and expressing the power and life of the spiritual.
 - 2. Through his body man is in contact with the outside sensuous world, affecting it and being affected by it.
 - 3. The soul stands between these two worlds, yet belongs to both. It is linked with the spiritual world through the spirit and with the material world through the body. (Free Will)

III. A Deeper Look at the Human Spirit

- A. The spirit of man has three main functions which it executes as a member of the tripartite union of spirit, soul and body: conscience, intuition and communion.
1. The **conscience** is the discerning organ which **distinguishes right and wrong**, not, however, through the influence of knowledge stored in the mind but by a spontaneous direct judgement. Often reasoning will justify things which the conscience judges, but the work of the conscience is independent and direct; it does not bend to outside opinion.
 2. **Intuition is the sensing organ** of the human spirit. It is so diametrically different from physical sense and soulical sense that it is called intuition. Intuition involves a direct sensing independent of any outside influence. **The knowledge which comes to us with out any help from the mind, emotion or will comes intuitively.** We really “know” through our intuition; our mind merely helps us to “understand”. The revelations of God and all the movements of the Holy Spirit are know to the believer through his intuition.
 3. **Communion** is worshipping God. The organs of the soul are incompetent to worship God. God is not apprehended by our thoughts, feelings or intentions, for He can only be known directly in our spirits. Our worship of God and God’s communications with us are directly in the spirit. These take place in the “inner man,” not the soul or outward man.
 4. We can conclude then that these three elements of conscience, intuition and communion are deeply interrelated and function co-ordinately. In what ways....?
 - a. The relationship between **conscience** and **intuition** is that Conscience judges according to intuition; it condemns all conduct which does not follow the directions given by intuition.
 - b. Intuition is related to communion or worship in that God is known intuitively and reveals His will to man in the intuition. No measure of expectation or lack thereof gives us the knowledge of God (Luke 10:22).

SCRIPTURE SUPPORT:

The Function of Conscience in Man’s Spirit:

Deut.2:30, Ps.34:18, Ps. 51:10, John 13:21, Acts 17:16,
Rom.8:16, I Cor. 5:3

The Function of Intuition in Man’s Spirit:

Matt. 26:41, Mark 2:8, Mark 8:12, John 11:33, Acts18:25,
Acts 20:22, I Cor. 2:11, I Cor.16:18

The Function of Communion in Man’s Spirit

Luke 1:47, John 4:23, Rom. 1:9, Rom.7:6, Rom8:15,
I Cor. 6:17, I Cor. 14:15 &16, Rev. 21:10

