

Lesson 12 - The Book of Romans

Before we tackle the balance of Chapter 7 of the book of Romans, let me first be sure we understand certain things about ourselves.

What was lost in the garden by our first family Adam and Eve, was the portion of the tri-part man that was in direct communion with God.

When Adam sinned, his **spirit** died. He became dead in his spirit. He continued to live in his body, and his soul was still intact. His body continued to function for some 930 years according to **Genesis 5:5** until he died.

His soul was still intact, his mind and will continued to be active, and his emotions continued to be active until he died.

He continued to reproduce after his kind and everyone born on earth after Adams sin was born with an active mind, will, emotion, and body but a dead spirit.

That spirit needed to be re-born, thus the “new birth” experience of **John 3:16**.

Understand something now about man.

The new man is spirit, soul and body according to **1st Thessalonians 5:23** We have a new spirit, which expresses itself through the soul and eventually out through the body.

Now the difference between the spirit and the soul are very subtle and can only be understood by inner revelation.

God says that *the Word of God is sharper than any 2 edge sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart* – **Hebrews 4:12**

So we need to see the function of each the soul and the spirit so we can recognize the proper function of each, without mistaking one for the other.

The joints within man give the bony structure of the body its flexibility, the marrow is the inner life of the bone

So too, the spirit as the real self is clothed by the soul and then the body is where the spirit then gives its expression.

God is spirit – and so are we.

Marrow can be compared to the spirit giving expression through he body in the same manner in which the spirit gives inner life to the body.

Marrow is to the joints as the Spirit within man’s spirit, is to the body

Now, it is said that man “knows God” through his spirit, but there is more to it than that.

Scripture teaches us that we know ourselves through our spirit. **1st Corinthians 2:11** tells us: *“for what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man which is in him.”*

Did you get that?

The human spirit is the “real self”. Soul and body are the clothing or the means of expression of the spirit.

Jesus said that God is spirit, It is said that He God is the “father of spirits”

We know God through our spirit.

When I speak of I myself, I am speaking about my spirit. **True self is my spirit.**

When Jesus died on the cross, He gave His Spirit up unto the Lord.

Our minds are the facility by which we “know things.” Our minds are the *means* by which we know them. It is not what we think about things any more than love is what we feel about things. We have the mind of Christ, and that is how we know Him.

Scripture says that: “this is life eternal, that we may know Him.”

Ideas belong to the soul realm, where knowledge belongs in the spirit realm. There are many folks that know about Christ that is they have ideas about Him and this belongs in the soul realm of man. However this is very different that those who “know Him” in the spirit realm. The human spirit is the “knower”

When the divine Spirit is mixed with our human spirit, this is how He shares His knowing with us.

Love is also a portion of the spirit, and cannot be separated from Him. He is love. Not that He has it and gives it to us, but He is actually the issue of love. When His love moves through us, it is not separated from Him, but actually He in us, as us.

Another portion of the spirit of man is our will. Whenever choices are made under the direction of our hearts (actual love), and whenever decisions are made these decisions move into action. The will is the arbiter of our destiny. When we are walking in the Spirit His divine will takes over our will and the results are that He is “willing and doing of His good pleasure in our lives.”

So how does the soul differ from the spirit? It is the means by which the divine Spirit expresses Himself through the soul and eventually through the body and into the world.

The soul of a man is the intermediary between ourselves and the world. It (our spirit) channels what is in the spirit to the world. Our emotions and reason are wide open, not only to our spirits but also to the world around us. However, our soul is variable (that is it feels cold, indifferent or apathetic, bold or fearful etc.) Our spirits are not variable. They are in union with Christ and He remains steadfast, unmovable unshakable etc. I must remember that I am not soul (feelings etc.) I am spirit. We are affected by what is going on in our soul, but not governed by them. Get it?

We may feel spiritually cold, dead or apathetic. We may feel that we need inner revival. No we don't. We need not be deceived by our souls. ***I am not my soul feelings***. My spirit (joined with His Holy Spirit) does not change. Do not consider soul-reactions with spirit steadfastness. You are spirit person – in union with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful unto death.” He said at Gethsemane, “if it be possible let this cup pass from Me”, nevertheless not as will, but as you will”

Jesus was conscious of a contrary will, however He knew the difference between soul and spirit. With His human soul, He was meant to feel all that was involved in becoming our sin-bearer, Equally He knew that was not His real self. His true will was the Father's will within Him, in His spirit. His soul cried out as He sweat blood in the garden. Yet not His will, but the Heavenly Fathers will be done.

In our soul we may not feel willing to do this or that, and that is perfectly legitimate. We may not be willing to do such and such or go to so and so and this is very natural. The soul is meant to resist and refuse. Don't sweat it beloved. These feelings are not the real us. The real us is in union with His Spirit and His will will be done in our lives. “For it is God that worketh in us both to Will and to Do of His good pleasure.” Get it?

Hard for us to grasp sometimes beloved, but you and I are not our “feelings” Feelings belong in the realm of the soul, and you are spirit. We are one with Him in our spirit.

So too is my reasoning. It also is attributed to the activity of the soul. My soul attracts all manner of reasoning, and like my emotions, are related to what is going on around me.

One last example and then on to the lesson. Remember the fellow who brought his son to Jesus for healing? The story is in **Mark 9:17& following**, from birth this boy was driven by demons. The father brings the boy to Jesus for healing, Jesus asks how long has he been like this, the father responds with “since his birth.” The boy had a mute spirit. The demons would throw the boy down, make him froth at the mouth and gnash his teeth, and the fellow says to Jesus “your disciples tried to cast them out but were unsuccessful.

Jesus said, bring the boy to me. Immediately upon the arrival in front of Jesus, the demons began to convulse the boy, causing him to foam at the mouth. Jesus says to the father, “if you can but believe, all things are possible to them that believe, the father cries out - :Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.”

In his spirit, he believed Jesus could do it. In his soul, he was full of fear and unbelief. The reasoning faculty of the soul raised questions, but did not alter his basic faith. His spirit did battle with his soul and would not submit to its questionings. He fought doubt by confirming faith – Lord I believe – but asking for help against his doubt, he said “help my unbelief.” Faith swallowed up doubt, and the boy was healed. Wonderful huh?

Now, I said all of this to set the groundwork for the issue of Romans 7. When Paul speaks about a portion of himself that wishes to do well, only to find that at times he is unable to perform what he deems as “well” he makes a separation between who he really is (that is the spirit man) and what is coming out of this spirit man.

I know that there are those out there that will immediately say – Tom that is a cop out. You are not being truthful about this thing or that thing.

Beloved, the sooner we establish the difference between how we act sometimes, and who we really are at our core, the sooner we can own up to what we have done, knowing that what was done, was not the actual me.

At my core, I am spirit man mingled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the mind of God, there is no separation between He and me. We are in union with one another. His Holy Spirit has now become entrenched with my human spirit to the point that there is no separation between us. He is now living in me, as me.

That is why it is so foolish to pray to Him as though He is in a far off place, and I need to summon Him to my side.

That is why it is so foolish to question His hearing you when you pray. Beloved, He has chosen to reside within your spirit. He will never leave, nor forsake you.

Now -

Look closely at verse **15 of Chapter 7** – “for what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do (that is in my spirit/Holy Spirit union), that I do not practice. But what I hate (in my spirit man in union with the Holy Spirit) that I find myself doing.”

Verse 17, “but now it is no longer I (the spirit Holy Spirit union) who do it, **but sin that dwells in me.**” Paul says this again in **verse 20**.

Where does this idea of “sin” come from? **Verse 23** Paul says that it is coming from my members. (In other words, coming from my body) or coming from my soul – mind, will and emotions – but not coming from the real me (which is in union with God in my spirit.) Paul concludes then in verses **17** and **20** that it is no longer I –(in union with the Holy Spirit and who I really am) that do this thing, but sin that dwells within me – body or soul. Paul also concludes that “nothing within him – that is his flesh- dwelleth no good thing. He continues in **verse 18** “for to will is present within me (that is my spirit/Holy Spirit union), but how to perform what is good, I do not find.” Paul said in **verse 22** “for I delight in the law of God, according to the inner man” Well what part of him could this be? Yep – you are right. That portion of each of us that is in union with the Holy Spirit of the Living God. More later, beloved.

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