

# Body Soul & Spirit

I WILL PRAISE YOU FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE. PSALM 139:14



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## SERIES #2 THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE SOUL

### Lesson #1

# “MY SOUL IS NOT FOR SALE!”

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**SCRIPTURE:** *Genesis 25:29-33* Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with some of your red stew, for I am weary. But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.” And Esau said, “Look, I am about to die; so what good is this birthright to me?” Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.” So Esau swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau had no regard for his **birthright**.

### **OPENING STATEMENT:**

I know you’re probably wondering what a birthright has to do with the soul. First, let me define birthright. It was a blessing that was bestowed on the firstborn son that entitled him to a double-portion of all of his father’s possessions. The birthright allowed the eldest son to have a place of honor and authority that the other children were not entitled too. When the father grew old, or was away from the family, it was the eldest son who controlled his father’s estate. He was also given twice as much land and possessions as the rest of his siblings. Now can you see how ridiculous it was for Esau to sell his birthright for a bowl of stew? It is the same way with people who are willing to sell their soul for something that is worthless by comparison. I am persuaded that people, who put their soul in danger of being lost, do so because they do not understand the true value of the soul.

The birthright is similar to the soul: *Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for a morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. (Hebrews 12:16-17)*

**JESUS WAS NOT FOR SALE:** *Again, the devil took Him (Jesus) up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him (Jesus), “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve. (Matthew 4:8-9)*

Satan attempted to get Jesus to worship him in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world. But Jesus was not for sale. Please note that Satan could only offer Jesus material things. He can never offer anyone

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peace of mind, joy, love or contentment because only God can give us the things that have real value and meaning. Satan is a deceiver and he tries to make us believe that material possessions will bring lasting happiness. He will make you think that money is more precious than your soul. But the scriptures give this warning: *What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?* Satan came to Jesus when he was weary, hungry and easily tempted. But Jesus withstood Satan with the Word of God. Jacob also tempted his brother Esau when he was weary and hungry... a bowl of soup in exchange for his birthright. Unfortunately, Esau did not have the spiritual maturity to withstand his brother's tempting offer. It is no different in your life. Satan will offer you anything you desire, in order to get you to sell your soul.

Here are some of the major temptations:

1. Addiction to drugs and alcohol.
2. Money and power.
3. Worship of false gods and the occult.
4. Suicide.
5. Success, glory and fame.
6. Ungodly relationships.
7. Jealousy, anger and rage.
8. Sexual perversion.

## **WHAT IS THE SOUL AND WHY DOES SATAN WANT TO POSSESS IT?**

### **DEFINITION OF THE SOUL:**

Hebrew: Strong's Hebrew Lexicon #5315: Nephesh – Soul, self, life, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion. That which breathes; the inner being of man.

Greek: Strong's Greek Lexicon #5594: Pscuche – The soul. A living being. A living soul. The seat of the feelings, desire, affections, aversions, with 3 references to the mind.

1. The soul is the invisible part of your being that will live forever. It is your soul that will give an account to God for your deeds on earth. Satan wants to destroy your soul for all eternity, because he hates God and we were created in the image and likeness of God. (Read [Luke 12:18-20](#))
2. The soul is the center of your "self." It is your unique personality that sets you apart from all other people. Satan uses the media to project false images of people who appear to be happy, beautiful, successful and rich. He does this to make you feel inferior and less valuable. But God says that you are special and He has a plan for your life. ([Psalm 139:14](#))

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3. The soul is the storehouse of your gifts and talents. It is the place where God's plan and purpose for your life has already been written down. Satan wants to capture your soul so that you cannot fulfill the purpose for which you were created. (Read Jeremiah 1:5)
4. The soul is, in part, the mind. It is the place of thought, ideas, creativity, intellect and the decisions that govern your will. Satan wants to control your soul so that he controls your will and use your gifts and talents to create evil instead of good. (1 Chronicles 28:9-10)
5. The soul is the seat of the emotions where we express love, desire, hate, passion and worship. Satan wants us to worship him. He tempts us with things that capture our emotions and stir up the desires of the flesh. By doing so, he attempts to lure us away from God. (Luke 1:46-47)

### **HOW CAN I PROTECT MY SOUL?**

1. Guard your soul from temptation: *Beloved, I beg you as travelers and pilgrims; abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11)*
2. Seek wisdom and understanding: *My son, eat honey because it is good...so shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it...your hope will not be cut off. (Proverbs 24:13-14)*
3. Fear and reverence God: *"Don't be afraid of those who can kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)*
4. Obey God's Word: *Please, obey the voice of the LORD which I speak to you. So it shall be well with you, and your soul shall live. (Jeremiah 28:30)*

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

**Read: (Luke 16:20-30)**

1. What happened to this man's soul?
2. How did this man end up the way he did?
3. How could he have avoided this terrible end?

**Read: (Revelations 18:11-13)**

1. How are ungodly merchants able to persuade people to put their souls at risk?
2. What are some of the ways that you can enslave and destroy your own soul?

3. Read Revelations 18:12-13. What merchandise listed in this passage do you find very tempting?
4. If there are areas in your life where you are easily tempted, what practical steps can you take to resist temptation?

**Write a short poem or story that explains why your soul is not for sale.**