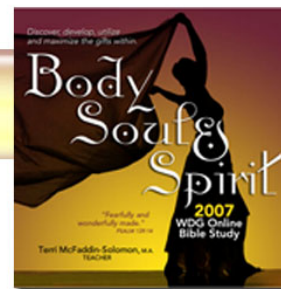


Body Soul & Spirit

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



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WDG Bible Study 2007

Series #3: THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE SPIRIT

Lesson #1

“The Journey Of Your Spirit”

Presented by: Terri McFaddin-Solomon, M.A.

OPENING STATEMENT :

You have already learned that we were created with a body, soul and a spirit.

- **The body** was created from the dust of the earth. It connects us to the surrounding world through the 5 senses. It is the vehicle that carries out the orders that come from the spirit and the soul.
- **The soul** is the inner-self, which includes the mind, emotions and will. It is the part of us that will live forever in eternity. The soul is the personality that makes us uniquely different from everyone else. It is the storehouse of our gifts and purpose.
- **The spirit** is first and foremost the life force within us. *Genesis 2:7a – And God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.* The spirit not only gives life to our body, but it also connects us the invisible realm of the spirit world. Just as the body makes us aware of the visible world, the spirit makes us aware of the invisible world. Once we are “born again” we receive a new spirit that connects us to God and allows us to experience fellowship and communion with Him. *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)*

THE JOURNEY OF YOUR SPIRIT:

The birth of your spirit:

The New Testament refers to the spirit as **pneuma**. It is used nearly 40 times to denote the dimension of the human life whereby relationship with God is made possible. John 3:5-8 says that in order to become a child of God, you must receive a new spirit.

When we receive a new spirit the bible calls it born of the Spirit. The new birth that takes place in the realm of the spirit is mention three times in the New Testament:

(1) Jesus said that we cannot enter the kingdom of God unless you are born of the Spirit. *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5).*

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626.794.5402 * Email: wdgbiblestudy@aol.com

(2) The Bible tells us that our human birth and spiritual birth are two separate events. Only the Spirit of God can allow us to be born of the spirit. *“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but Spirit gives birth to spirit.” (John 3:6).*

(3) Spiritual birth cannot be seen with the natural eyes. It is an invisible experience, yet it is real. *“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear the sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8).*

The growth of your spirit:

As your new spirit begins to grow and mature, you learn how to walk in the Spirit. At first you will take baby steps and very often you will fall. But as you grow stronger and feed on the Word of God you will learn to walk in the Spirit without falling. *As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby. (1 Peter 2:2)*

Like a faithful parent, the Holy Spirit will hold you up and guide your footsteps. This is called learning to walk in the Spirit. *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).*

As you continue to walk in the Spirit you will grow to look and act more and more like your Spiritual Father. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)* When the fruit of the Spirit is produced in your life, it is a confirmation that you are truly born of the Spirit.

The character of your spirit:

The Lord uses our spirit to examine the intents and motive of our heart. We can pretend to be righteous, but our spirit reveals the true condition of our life. The conscience is like a security alarm in our spirit. It lets us know when our actions or attitude is not pleasing to God. *The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all of the inner depths of his heart. (Proverbs 20:27)*

When we are in a right relationship with the Lord we experience peace and joy in our spirit. King David made the following appeal to the Lord concerning the condition of his spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10) *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. (Psalm 51:12)*

The work of your spirit:

Once you learn how to walk in the spirit and you become strong and mature, you will then be ready to serve the Lord. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son. (Romans 1:9a) The work of the ministry is sometimes referred to as “running a race.” You start out walking and end up running for the Lord. *Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. (Hebrews 12:1b)*

The power of your spirit:

As you run your race and serve the Lord, you must be prepared to fight spiritual battles. Your spirit must also become strong enough to resist the attacks of Satan. *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 – Paraphrased)*

The release of your spirit:

| When we die, our spirit returns to God. *Then the dust (flesh) will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7) And as they stoned Stephen, he was praying and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. (Acts 7:59)*

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OBSERVATIONS AND INTERPRETATION:

Read 1 Corinthians 14:14-16 – What does it mean to “pray with my spirit?”

Read Matthew 26:41 – Why is it necessary to watch and pray?