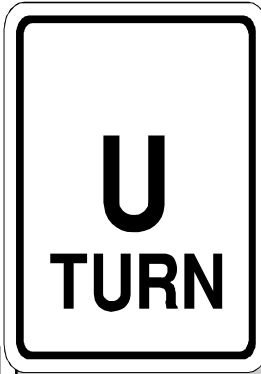


4

Born Again

It is important to know that God has created us in His image therefore we need to at least understand in part what that actually means.



So what happens when you sincerely repent and ask Jesus to come into your life? The Bible says that the supernatural life of God comes and quickens your spirit and makes it alive.

*'Now may the very God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'*

1 Thessalonians 5:23

'Unless you are born again (or born from above) you will not see the kingdom of heaven.'

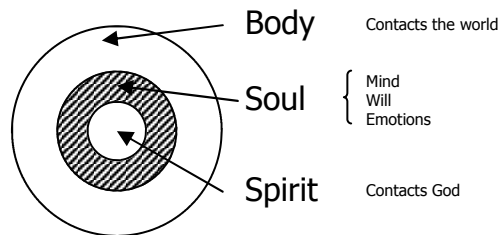
John 3:3

When someone receives Christ they receive eternal life,

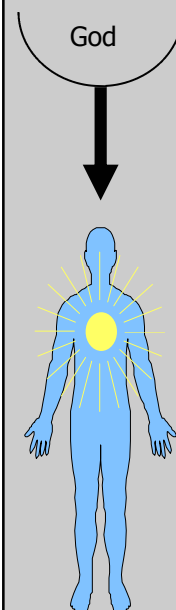
'For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son (Jesus) that whoever believes in Him (trust and follow) should not perish (spiritual death/ eternal separation from God) but have eternal life.'

John 3:16

This Bible verse reveals that you are a spirit who has a soul and lives in a body- these three elements make up a person made in God's image.



What are these elements? Well it is pretty obvious what your body is...just look in the mirror. This body has an average used by date of approximately 70 years maybe even more, but it definitely has an expiry date. One day you will 'give up the ghost' (give up your spirit) and your body will return to the ground. Your soul is made up of your mind will and emotions- it is the captain of the ship that thinks, feels and makes decisions. Your spirit is your inner most being, the eternal part of you. Your spirit goes deeper than emotions- this is the part that is in direct contact with God. Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart." Some people would say that it is the seat of your intuition, gut feeling and even your subconscious.



Once you are 'born again', God (who is Spirit), desires to speak to us because He loves us and wants us to know Him. When God speaks to us (and He does), He puts a 'download' into our spirit which then our mind processes according to our frame of reference at the time.

This download can come in the form of a hunch, a knowing, a leading, a dream or sometimes even a vision or audible voice. We will address this in greater detail later.

Living From The Inside Out

The Bible says that even though you will physically die one day, your 'inner man' will go straight into the presence of God and be with Him forever. From now on you must cultivate the awareness that your spirit is alive because Jesus lives inside of you:

'Christ in you the hope of glory.'

Colossians 1:27

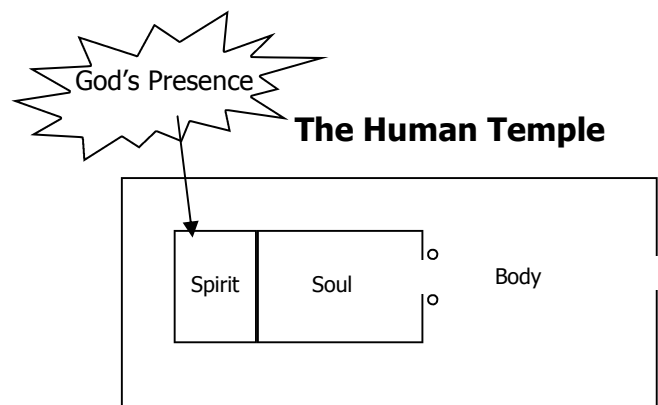
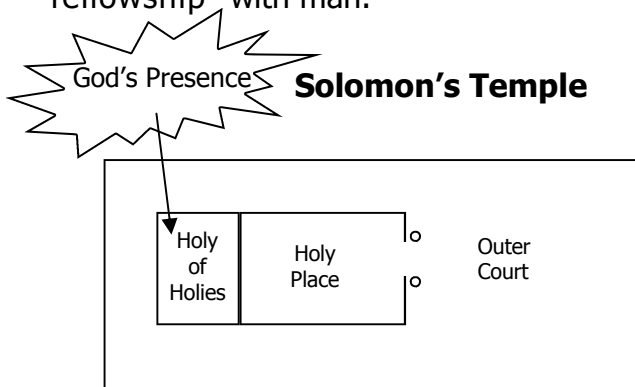
I once heard someone say,

'We are not a human trying to have a spiritual experience but a spirit having a human experience.'

This pretty much sums it up.

Illustration:

Moses Tabernacle and Solomon's Temple were both built from blueprints given by God. These structures were the means by which God was able to dwell amongst and fellowship with man.



It is no coincidence that God gave the blueprint for the Old Testament Temple because it is a model of God's ultimate plan for fellowship with mankind. However, it was never God's plan to merely inhabit a physical building He has always desired to be in intimate union with all of mankind.



'But Solomon built Him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands...'

Acts 7:47-48

To accomplish His plan the New Testament teaches that Jesus died so that the Spirit of God may come and live in us. His death which makes us righteous before God has paved the way for our bodies to become the true temple of the Holy Spirit.

'Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...'

1 Cor. 6:19

The true temple is your body!

Parables

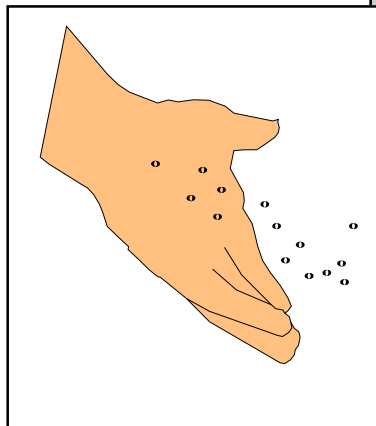
The Bible helps us understand spiritual things by drawing parallels (parables) with everyday life events. Once a baby is born into the world one of the first things it needs is nourishment in the form of milk and care in the form of a loving family. It is the same when we are born again,

*'as newborn babes,
desire the pure milk of the word
so that you can grow.'*

1 Peter 2:2

New born believers immediately need to be nourished through the word. We also need to be encouraged and cared for by a spiritual family by worshipping and hanging around with other believers. If a baby did not receive nourishment and love immediately after it is born it would definitely perish. It is exactly the same spiritually.

The Bible illustrates this in the parable of the Sower and the Seed - read carefully because it is about you.



In this parable:

Sower = One with the message of Christ.

Seed = The Word of God.

Soil Types = The hearts of people.

Which soil type will you be?

The Sower and Seed

*Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.
And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.*

Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

And some seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred...'

Mark 4:3-8

And Jesus said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

The sower sows the word .

And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves and so only endure for a time. Afterward when tribulation or persecution arises for the words sake immediately they stumble.

Now these are the ones sown among the thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things choke the word and it becomes unfruitful.

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty and some a hundred".

Mark 4:13-20

This parable is the foundation to all the parables about the kingdom so it is vitally important that you understand it.

Questions

1. According to the Bible you are made up of three parts, what are they?

2. Which of these parts is the captain of the ship?

3. What is the true temple of God?

4. In the parable of the Sower how many soil types are there?

5. What were the characteristics of the soil with thorns (weeds)?

6. What takes place in people with good soil (open, receptive heart who applies it to their life)?

7. In John 3:16. What was God's motivation for giving His Son Jesus as a sacrifice to the world?

8. What does one receive when they believe in God's Son?

9. What soil type will you be?
