

Bringing the Soul Into Alignment

February 17, 2016

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This verse has come up many times for me last week. I have been seeking as to what it means on an individual level for many years. We often, incorrectly, interchange soul with spirit. They are two different parts of our being. Our soul is our carnal mind, will, and emotions while our spirit is that part of us that is seated in heavenly places with the Lord (Ephesians 2:4-10). What does this mean for our walk and our growth?

When we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts He becomes a part of us. This (our salvation) is a free gift that only requires believing and accepting (John 3:16-17, Ephesians 2:8-9). Though Jesus becomes a part of us there is a process we must choose in order for our growth to continue and come to fruition (Philippians 2:12-13). When a seed is planted there are things that must take place for that seed to grow and mature in the place it is planted. The Seed is the Word of God which is Jesus Christ Himself (Genesis 3:15, Luke 8:11-15, John 1:1, Revelation 19:13).

Our soul must come into alignment with our spirit. The Seed must be watered to flourish. The Bible verse above says the Word of God pierces even to the division of soul and spirit. This means to me that at one point they were intertwined but become separated. What I am submitting is not that the soul is done away with but it comes into alignment with our spirit. Our carnal mind comes into agreement with our spiritual mind as we grow in the Lord and as we allow Him to grow in us:

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 - But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not

receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

When we surrender ourselves to the Lord all parts of us become subject to His authority and His will; this includes our will (our likes, our pleasures, our ways):

Matthew 21:28-31a - "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first."

Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Just as our carnal mind must come into agreement through a renewing which comes by Holy Spirit so must our carnal will come into agreement and alignment with the will of God by Holy Spirit. As I see it, as these two begin to come into alignment our emotions will follow. Things that used to consume us will begin to lose their power and grip over us. The question remains how do we do this? We get into the word and allow the word to cleanse us. As we get into the word we begin to understand our Lord more and more by His Spirit. We begin to be transformed because The Seed begins to grow within us. As The Seed flourishes we decrease; meaning our carnality (fleshly ways) decrease and our spiritual nature (Jesus Christ Himself in us) increases. It is a process that has multiple levels. Think about it. Are you the same person as before you accepted Jesus Christ? Are you the same person (same thought patterns, same emotions, same desires) as one year ago? If things don't seem to be

changing it only means there is more that needs to be surrendered. Jesus is The Seed, Jesus is the Tree of Life, Jesus is the River of Life, Jesus is our Righteousness, Jesus is our Rest. Jesus Christ becomes our life and we begin to be transformed more and more into His likeness. We have the free will to either be conformed to His image or to be conformed to this world. To be conformed to His image we all must surrender every part of ourselves to Him which allows Him to transform us by Holy Spirit. This conforming comes by the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Allow the Word (Jesus Christ) to grow (flourish; mature) in you by going deeper into the scriptures. A good place to start is to command your soul by the authority of Jesus Christ to come into alignment with the Spirit of the Living God. You can do that by speaking the following verses out loud. Bring the soul into alignment with the Spirit.

Psalm 103:1-5 - Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

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