

## The Dangers of Soulsh Life- Elder Harry L. Jackson

Jeremiah 17:9- “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

The unregenerate heart communicates wrong motives and ungodly desires to the mind. If the mind is not renewed by the Word of God (Rom. 12:2), it will accept the wrong direction and influence the body to follow (James 1:14).

(See also Mt. 12:34, Mt. 15:19)

Many Christians are not as “spiritual” as we think that we are. Most of us live in the “soulsh” realm.

Ques: “What does it mean to be “soulsh?”

Every person is “made in the image of God in that he or she, like God is a three-part being, consisting of

- Spirit
- Soul
- Body

The above illustrates the condition of man before the fall. When sin came into the world, although man remained a three-part being (“in the image of God”), the positioning of the parts has now been reversed, hence man is now:

- Body
- Soul
- Spirit

Hence, man is no longer a spiritual person, but is now ruled by the dictates of the body. He is now *fleshly*, or *carnal*.

Note that the soul remains in the center position regardless of the condition of the subject. Hence, it will be swayed or ruled by whichever element is in the top, or dominant position, be it flesh (body) or spirit.

When a person is fleshly, he is controlled by the body, which both dictates to and receives direction from the soul. It is important then that we understand that the soul is also composed of three parts:

Mind- “*I Think*”

Will- “*I Want*”

Emotions- “*I Feel*”

In being able to see the makeup of the soul, one can easily determine how dangerous it is for any of these three parts of the soul not under the dominion of the Word of God, and of the Spirit of God.

Rom:8:7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The Solution:

The work of salvation is essentially to restore man back to the condition that he was in before the Fall. This is called regeneration:

- Spirit
- Soul
- Body

Thereby rendering him a spiritual being, able to communicate with, have fellowship with, and walk in obedience to, God.

Heb 4:12- “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- The Word of God...”divides asunder the soul and spirit...” The soul has to be “cut loose” from the spirit, so that the spirit may be free to receive communication and enablement from God through the Holy Spirit, and in turn, bring the soul into subjection to the will of God.

1 Cor. 2:9-13-

9: But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10: But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11: For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12: Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13: Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

According to “The Dangers of Soulful Life” Chapter 3, “The Spiritual Man,” by Watchman Nee, the manifestations of soul life are:

1. Natural strength
2. Self-conceit (hard and unyielding towards God).
3. Self-styled wisdom (many opinions and plans)
4. Emotional sensations sought in spiritual experiences

*“These are due to the fact that the life of the soul is self, which in turn is natural strength, and that the faculties of the soul are mind, will, and emotion. (Nee)*

Some Christians incline to the mind, while others to the will or emotions. Therefore, all soulful lives are not alike.

We must have our true condition exposed to the light of God’s light (the Word) instead of our measuring others with new knowledge.”

*“Countless saints are blind to the harmfulness inherent in soulful experience. They resist and reject...the deeds of the flesh...but yet...walk by the energy of the soul. The Holy Spirit must equip us to realize that all our walk and work are centered upon self, and not the Lord.” (Nee)*