

Dear friends, as the 23rd of May was Pentecost Sunday in the church calendar I thought we too might remember that, but on this occasion by looking at an aspect of the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration in us.

Just a little reminder of the historical biblical events concerning our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who was crucified at Easter time, being raised from the dead three days later and appeared to His disciples for forty days teaching them things concerning the kingdom of God as we read in:-

Acts 1: NKJ Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

10 days later both He and His Father send the Holy Spirit to fill the disciples with power anointing them to preach the Gospel as His witnesses.

So it was 50 days after the resurrection, hence the name Pentecost, fiftieth (day).

Incidentally, as a matter of interest, this parallels the time of the Israelites coming out of Egypt and receiving the Law at Mt. Siniai in Exodus.

In order to look at the work of the Holy Spirit, bringing salvation to us I would like to consider the following verses:-

NKJ 1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NKJ 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.

The body, that is the flesh as we see it, is the usual way of understanding “body” but we also use it in a collective sense for the church, the mystical body, Christ the head.

The Greek word for soul is also translated as life, mind and heart.

The word spirit is used for beings that have no bodies, like angels or evil spirits or even ghosts, the word also being used in older bibles for the Holy Ghost.

For this article I would like to concentrate on the spiritual aspect of man or the Holy Spirit and the relationship between the two in the process of salvation.

Thus

Holy Spirit in our hearts.

NKJ 1 Corinthians 2:11 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.

NKJ 2 Corinthians 1:22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Affecting our minds.

NKJ Ephesians 4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

The spirit representing the whole person

NKJ 1 Corinthians 5:5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

A person seen as body and spirit.

NKJ James 2:26 For as the **body** without the **spirit** is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Even if body dies our spirit and soul is with the Lord.

2 Cor 5: 6 So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the **body** we are absent from the Lord.

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the **body** and to be present with the Lord.

1 Cor 15:44 It is sown a **natural body**, it is raised a **spiritual body**. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

So, as you can see this is quite a complex and fascinating subject well worth a deep biblical exploration.

But, not this morning.

As we are meeting on Pentecost Sunday I thought we could continue in our reading of Galatians and look at our salvation from another perspective; this time to try and appreciate what takes place **IN US** in terms of regeneration, or being born again.

Therefore I wanted us to read those verses to grasp this difficult concept concerning our own “make up”, or constitution, namely that our unity as an individual does have three parts, spirit, soul and body, or as some suggest, body and a soul that has spiritual activities.

The terminology often used to describe this:- tripartite or bipartite.

Yet Scripture does seem to distinguish between all three and I would like to explore that this morning.

I think it easier, visually, if I use the three sections of the pulpit, spirit on my right, soul in the middle and body on my left in order to look at their functions.

The soul is ME. YOU. We are what we are in our souls, the seat of our personality. I know that there is great overlap with words and activity. Some spring to mind: heart, will, feeling, desire, motivation and mind which can also be applied to my spirit, (hence the debate, tri or bi partite) but that does not hinder our approach this morning. Bear in mind that soul is often used in the bible to speak of people as individuals as well. **Acts 2: 41, 3000 souls added to the church.**

Excuse me now but I find it easier to talk in the first person and say I rather than an English impersonal way often used, saying “One does this or One reads that”.

The body relates the world to my soul through my senses and the use of speech, writing, art and music etc.

I in turn relate to the world through those same means.

I learn to recognise what is around me as I absorb the information provided by my senses and at the same time begin to recognise my own identity, that I am an individual with a distinct and separate personality.

Destroy my body and I am dead. My soul and spirit may be very much alive but the world cannot communicate to me nor I to the world. There is no response.

If I place a barrier between an active living body and soul then I am either deeply asleep or unconscious and possibly very close to death. Though I am very much alive I am unable to share my thoughts with anyone else. Those are things that we well know.

Now, having said that I can apply the same picture to my spirit.

Thus my spirit relates me to the spiritual world and I to it through prayer, scripture and worship.

But kill my spirit and I am spiritually dead and have no real awareness, nor am I conscious of a spiritual world and God.
(So, it is not God who is dead. I am!).

The nearest I can assume about this spiritual world are though such vague terms like hunches, feelings or intuitions, the sinful dangerous activities of evil spirits or the genuine stirrings of my God given conscience which can be ignored and quenched.

That is what happened when Adam and Eve sinned and that “Fallen” human nature is passed on from generation to generation.
I am already born and scripturally said to be spiritually dead.
Hence the need to be born again, quickened, made alive by the Holy Spirit.

**Eph. 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

Having said all that we can now turn our attention to the work of the Holy Spirit in our salvation.
You remember that the Lord Jesus Christ promised His disciples that He and His Father would send the Holy Spirit to continue His work.
This happened at Pentecost, 50 days after the resurrection; 10 days after His ascension into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

So, what is the work of the Holy Spirit?
To bring to us what Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross and in His resurrected life:- the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.
The Holy Spirit comes into our dead spirits and makes us spiritually alive. The scriptural terms that refer to this are “being born again”, or “regeneration”, or “the new life”, or “being made alive”, and some others.
The Holy Spirit comes in.
We are made alive; believe and know that our sins are forgiven as we confess and repent.

NKJ Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

All this in an instant.

We can truly say, “saved by grace”.

This is the beginning of our Christian faith.

There is much more that I hope we will be able to share together.

Not sure about this?

Read your Bible, pray about it, come and see me.

Oh Lord, give us tender consciences washed clean by the continued presence of the Holy Spirit and stir up a greater desire to know you through a deeper reading of your precious Word. Amen.

Notes not mentioned.

NKJ 1 Corinthians 4:21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness? Spirit here relates to **Attitude**.

Spirit – Gk pneuma	pneumonia, pneumatic drill, as wind, air Pneumatology mainly in Christian studies of the Holy Spirit.
Soul - Gk psuche	psychology studies personality, behaviour, emotions. Psychiatry is the treatment of soul problems. Unfortunately there is no separate science for the treatment and recognition of genuine spiritual problems.
Body - Gk soma	somatics, somatic cells learnt in school biology, somatology is the study of the body.