



THE ESSENCE OF GOD

Stephen Smith, 24 June 2012

John 15:1-7

A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

John 10:10 (Message)

According to the Amplified translation, Jesus said: ***I came that they may HAVE and ENJOY life, and have it in ABUNDANCE (to the full, till it OVERFLOWS)***. The Greek word for abundance is "perissos", which means "Superior quality, super abundant quantity".

Everything that God does is big, good and prosperous! What is in you? The essence - the life of God. THINK BIG, GOOD AND PROSPEROUS! Think super quality, super quantity!

The three dimensions within a person

We are spirit, a soul and a living body. This is why people struggle to discern between the laws of God and the laws of the flesh. If you are controlled by the flesh, then God's laws (which are activated only through faith) have no power in you. If you live by the spirit, then death or laws of the world will not affect you.

Hebrews 4:12 says: ***For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing SOUL AND SPIRIT...*** If they were the same then they could not be separated.

If they were the same then Paul would not have prayed in **1 Thessalonians 5:23**: ***May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Summary of the spirit, soul and body:

- 1. Spirit** - The dimension of man that connects with the spiritual realm. The part that God knows.
- 2. Soul** - The dimension of man that connects with the human intellect. The senses and will of a person. The part that reasons and thinks.
- 3. Body** - The dimension of man that connects with the physical. The "house" that we live in.

Do not think of yourself as just a physical being. Look at yourself as a spirit that has a soul and a living body.

...but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your MIND [by its new ideals and its new attitude.

Romans 12:1-2 (Amplified)

Change must happen – soul (will, emotions and intellect)

If you want to see a CHANGE in your marriage, your body, your finances, your life – and then it will require change from the centre of your being - your soul. We need to KNOW what is required of us to possess the prosperity the Bible speaks of.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Beloved, in regard to all things I pray that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.

3 John 1:2

We want the fruit, but we do not work on the root system - OUR ATTITUDE. The world and tradition have reprogrammed our soul dimension (thoughts, how we think) so that our attitude about prosperity is established by Mammon, and that is why we as Christians **react** to it religiously.

The key is: THE PROSPEROUS SOUL!

Three characteristics of the soul.

- Your mind – reasoning and thought process
- Your emotions – feelings
- Your will – choices you make and selection process

Your soul, mind, emotions and will, must be prosperous first before your life will prosper.

Many Christians' lives are damaged and destroyed from a lack of knowledge and this keeps them in a life of mediocrity - not the best and most beautiful that God has for them. The difference between the soul and spirit is one of the biggest areas that cause confusion and lack of knowledge.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Thessalonians 5:23

This verse describes the uniqueness of the spirit and soul. Your spirit is sanctified or cleansed through being born again.

The heart of man is made up of the spirit and soul

At the end of **Hebrews 4:12** it says: ... **thoughts of the heart**. The spirit and the soul make up the heart of man. Several times in the Bible, the word heart is used to describe the whole person or a specific area of the inner man.

In **2 Corinthians 4:16**, Paul writes: ... **Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.**

Paul cannot speak here about the human spirit because it has already been reborn.

Part of the Christian life is to get to the place where we follow our spirit rather than our flesh. The flesh desires the things of the world, the carnal, negative things; but the spirit is connected to the Lord and desires only divine things! **The soul hears the desires of both and can only follow either the spirit or the flesh. Remember, the soul is the catalyst, or the connection!**

A soul that is prosperous is one who chooses to hear and follow the human spirit. The Bible promises that as we do this, we will prosper and be healthy IN ALL things.

The soul that prospers hears and is in accord with the spirit

As you are strengthened through the Word and your soul prospers, so your whole life will also prosper as you experience the Holy Spirit in your spirit. The Holy Spirit has been there the whole time, but because of the state of his soul, a Christian could not follow Him.

Eight things that form part of a poor soul:

1. A lack of knowledge of the Word (**Hosea 4:6**).
2. Controlled by the desires of the flesh (weight, habits or sexual urges) (**Rom. 8:5**).
3. To be weak, indecisive or double minded (**James 1:8**).
4. To dwell on the negative and feel that you cannot control your thoughts (**2 Cor. 10:4, 5**).
5. Refuse to change your behaviour, to justify and defend yourself (**Proverbs 9:7-9**).
6. Spend all your time on the natural, worldly, materialistic things (**Col. 3:1, 2**).
7. Allowing your emotions to determine your attitudes and actions (**Eph. 4:22-24**).
8. Allowing fear, anger, bitterness, gossip or negative thoughts to control you (**Phil. 4:8**).

Through the word of God and sincere efforts, the poor soul can be made to prosper again.

Eight elements of a prosperous soul:

1. A hunger to learn and change (**Matt. 5:6**).
2. A mind that meditates on the Word of God and follows His directions (**Ps. 1:1-3**).

3. A disciplined mind and will that agrees and is in agreement with the Holy Spirit (**Rom. 8:6**).
4. Focused on Godly thoughts and attitudes (**Matt. 6:33**).
5. Confesses mistakes openly and strives to change (**James 5:16**).
6. To have a mind that is focused on what God and Heaven are involved in (**Col. 3:1-10**).
7. Control over feelings and emotions (**2 Cor. 5:17**).
8. A pure, positive and happy attitude towards life (**Phil. 4:8**).