

# The Faculties of the Soul Under the Control of the Spirit

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the  
mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

— Romans 8:6

- Do we need the soul?
- Putting the faculties of the soul under the control of the spirit
- By taking the Lord as our life

**Our  
Human  
Spirit**

# Do we need the soul?

Did the last bold title on this slide surprise you?

## **The spirit can understand the things of God; the soul cannot**

- But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know them because they are discerned spiritually. – 1 Corinthians 2:14

## **The Independent Soul**

- When the soul is independent of the spirit, it frustrates God's expression and move. At this point the soul expresses Satan.
- And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You! – Matthew 16:22
- But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men. – Matthew 16:23

## **Denying the self, the soul-life**

- Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. – Matthew 16:24
- For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it. – Matthew 16:25

## **The soul is actually very useful and necessary**

- The key is for the soul to be united to the spirit and for it to be under the control of the spirit.

# Putting the faculties of the soul under the control of the spirit

Do you see how the mind set on the spirit means that the mind is under the control of the spirit?

How can we activate our spirit so that it takes control?

## In order to express God, who lives in our spirit, we need to...

- Deny the **life** of the soul
- But keep the **faculties** of the soul

**We can practice this by putting the faculties of the soul under the control of the spirit.**

### The spirit controlling the Mind

- For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind **set** on the spirit is life and peace. – Romans 8:6
- For the mind to be set on the spirit is for the mind to be under the control of the spirit.

### The spirit controlling the Emotion

- We rejoiced more abundantly over the **joy** of Titus, **because his spirit** has been refreshed by all of you. – 2 Corinthians 7:13b
- Titus' emotional response, his joy, his happiness, came from his spirit being refreshed.

### The spirit controlling the Will

- And when these things were fulfilled, Paul **purposed** in his spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem. – Acts 19:21a
- Something in Paul's spirit caused him to purpose, that is, to make a decision. Making a decision is a function of the will in our soul.
- Therefore, his will in his soul was being used, being controlled, by his spirit.

**The Spirit of God, who lives in our spirit, can thus express Himself through our mind, emotion, and will!**

# By taking the Lord as our life

*What does it mean to return to the innermost part of our being to sense what is there?*

What is a prayer or song that helps you to take Christ as your life?

## Christ is our life

- When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory. – Colossians 3:4
- I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. – Galatians 2:20a
- As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. – John 6:57

## Taking the Lord as Life

- As Christians, we have to reject our mind, emotion, and will. We must reject ourselves and take the Lord Jesus as our life. This is done by returning to our spirit and sensing what is there in our spirit. Suppose a brother comes to talk with you. While you are listening, you must reject yourself. You must reject your natural thinking, your emotion, and your will.
- You have to take the Lord Jesus as your life in this particular matter by returning to your spirit, your innermost part, to sense what is there. This is the right way for us to act as a Christian, but most of us do not act in this way. Whenever a brother comes to talk with us, we exercise our mind independent of the spirit.
- We sometimes forget about the Lord Jesus and forget that we have a spirit. The way for a normal Christian to act, however, is to always deny the natural mind, will, and emotion and to take the Lord Jesus as his life. In everything we should return to the innermost part of our being to sense what is there. – *(Our Human Spirit, Chapter 8)*