

THE BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT OF MAN

One of the ways it is evident that man was created in the image and likeness of God is seen in the fact man is a threefold or tripartite being, meaning **man is a soul which has a body and a spirit.**

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7 where we find man's creation set forth in a simple but astounding way. In **Genesis 2:7** we find that God, as would an artist or a potter, "formed man" (or fashioned the body of man) from the ground. God then breathed into his "nostrils the breath (*"ruach"* Hebrew for breath of God, spirit, wind) of life" which gave life to the clay. It was that spark of God which when breathed into the clay it gave the body life or the spirit. The account states the end result was that "man became a living soul."

Following is an attempt to associate the different parts of man with the things of a man physically, emotionally, spiritually. Hopefully, the chart of Clarence Larkin on the back of this page will help us in our understanding.

In two New Testament passages we find the body, soul, and spirit to be what man is made of. Those two passages are: **1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12.**

BODY or SOMA (Greek)

It contains the five senses: sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch. It is through these senses that the soul expresses itself and relates to the world in which it exists.

SOUL or PSYCHE (Greek)

The soul is the immaterial part of man that exists beyond death as indicated in **Genesis 25:8** where we see Rachel's soul departed at her death. Although the soul and spirit at times appear to be synonymous, although, as mentioned above, they are separate. According to **Hebrews 4:12** the spirit of man resides in the soul of man as the marrow resides in the bone.

It is in the soul of man where man's personality exists or the person man is. It is the part of man that thinks, feels, reasons, wills, hungers, lusts, desires, loves, fears, rejoices, sorrows, and believes. It could be said this is where man's heart and mind are found. Remember: **MAN IS A SOUL THAT HAS A BODY**

SPIRIT or PNEUMA (Greek)

It is through the spirit that man is God conscience. The spirit of man enables man to commune, interact, and relate with God. It is the place where faith, hope, and prayer exist.

When Adam fell in the Garden of Eden, the spirit "died" but it was not lost. The spirit can die but ***cannot be lost*** as can the soul be lost. It could be said the light went out according to **Proverbs 20:27** and made regeneration or a new birth a necessity. Regeneration according to **Titus 3:5** is the work of the Spirit of God quickening (making alive again) or the relighting (if you will) the spirit of man that had died. **Ephesians 2** tells us fallen man is spiritually a spiritually dead man until made alive by the grace of God.