

Spiritual Death

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Ephesians 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- I. Spiritual death does not mean that your spirit is dead.
 - A. In the first place, spirits do not die.
 - B. In the second place if your spirit were dead, your body would be dead, also.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:** and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

- C. Spirit is that vital principle in which life exists; the spirit is life, and without the spirit the body is dead.

Strong's Greek Dictionary

4151. πνεῦμα pneuma (pneûma)

a current of air, i.e. breath (human) the rational soul, vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, demon, or (divine) God, Christ's Spirit, Holy Spirit.

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

- 1. Breath means life is there – no breath means you have a dead body there.
- D. Many verses in the Bible speak of man's spirit in the sense that it is here and active.

Proverbs 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Ecclesiastes 3:21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

- 1. Ten times the Bible mentions “vexation of spirit” speaking of our spirit.
- E. To imagine that the spirit is dead is convenient for those who believe in the inability of man, however, it is simply not backed up by the Bible, but only by the doctrines and creeds of men.
- F. The Bible does not refer to, or teach anything about the death of spirits, but only the death of the body.
- G. The Bible teaches of the second death, which is the eternal separation from God and the righteous of every soul and spirit that were not redeemed, regenerated, and born again of the spirit.

1. This is called death, and it is referring to spiritual beings, but it is not death in the sense that we think of it here and now, nor in the manner which most understand spiritual death to mean.

II. The natural man is not spiritual but carnal, and to be carnally minded is death. (Romans 8:6)

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- A. The sense in which man is spiritually dead is that he totally and willingly gives up his mind to the demands of his flesh.

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

- B. So those who walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit are walking in death – they will surely die.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

- C. Part of walking after the flesh is being fascinated and intrigued by the spiritual world.
 1. When people turn away from God, or never have been exposed to any knowledge of God, they are almost without exception very superstitious.
 2. The natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God, but he certainly knows there is something beyond what he sees and hears and feels here on this earth.
 3. He knows that life is more than just this flesh and that there are powers working that are beyond his knowledge or ability to understand.
 4. This is another proof that his spirit is not dead in the sense that it is not able to perceive spiritual things; he is only blind and apathetic to the things of God and righteousness.
- D. Carnal men try to understand spiritual powers and activities by many different means.
 1. Wizards, witches, mediums of all different kinds, to communicate with the dead, to obtain power to control other people, or to obtain some kind of physical gain or pleasure.
 2. God strictly forbids all manner of meddling with the spiritual world by any means other than his Holy Spirit.
 3. If it is not of God it is evil and God pronounced it abomination and decreed the death penalty for all that involve themselves in it.
 4. Pagan religions and cults are all built around some carnal attempt to formulate a systematic understanding of spiritual powers in order to control their fear of the unknown.
 5. Psychology and psychiatry are also attempts at defining and understanding the things that make people do what they do and be what they are.

Strong's Greek Dictionary

5591. ψυχικός **psychikos** (psychikós)

sensitive, i.e. animate (in distinction on the one hand from [G4152](#), which is the higher or renovated nature; and on the other from [G5446](#), which is the lower or bestial nature):—natural, sensual.

Strong's Greek Dictionary

5590. ψυχή **psyche** (psyché)

breath, i.e. (by implication) spirit, abstractly or concretely (the animal sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from [G4151](#), which is the rational and immortal soul; and on the other from [G2222](#), which is mere vitality, even of plants: these terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew [H5315](#), [H7307](#) and [H2416](#)):—heart (+ -ily), life, mind, soul, + us, + you.

- E. This state of spiritual death is the assurance that you will spend eternity in lake of fire with the beast, the false prophet, the devil, and his angels.
- F. There is only one escape from spiritual death, and that is to be born again of the Spirit of God.

III. The vital principle that makes you live has to be changed.

[Galatians 2:20](#) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

[Colossians 3:3-4](#) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

- A. The Bible calls this regeneration.

[Titus 3:5](#) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

REGEN'ERATE,.

1. To generate or produce anew; to reproduce.

2. Born anew; renovated in heart; **changed from a natural to a spiritual state.**

- B. The vital principle of our life cannot be carnal and spiritual at the same time.
- C. We either live after the flesh or we live after the Spirit.

[Romans 8:5](#) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

- D. We must be changed from a carnally-minded person to a spiritually-minded person.
 - 1. So there cannot possibly be such a creature as a “carnal Christian.”
- E. This is what it means to walk after the Spirit.
 - 1. We learn to discern things according to the spirits at work or involved; events, people, their attitudes, moods, and opinions, as well as their choices, their words, and everything else.
 - 2. We stop walking in darkness and confusion and doubt.

[John 8:12](#) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

[Ezekiel 36:27](#) And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

[Galatians 5:16](#) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.