

The Spiritual Man Course Contents

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1. The Anatomy of Man

• Introduction

“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.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Man was created by God as a triune being i.e., he is made up of three very distinct parts or elements. Firstly, man is a spirit being. He is made up of a second element namely the soul which comprises the mind or intellect, the emotions and the will. Thirdly man has a body through which he relates to this material or natural world.

In the above scripture the apostle Paul asks the Thessalonians to submit to the work of God which is to sanctify or set them apart for the second coming of Jesus. We are sanctified by keeping our spirits, souls and body blameless or holy before God.

However, because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden we have all inherited a fourth element to our being namely our sin nature. It is this sin nature which withstood us from coming to Jesus and it is this sin nature that hinders us from perfectly serving the Lord. The good news is that Jesus dealt with this sin nature on the cross and has made the way for us to walk in the spirit, free from the influence of our sin nature and to become spiritual men.

This course will teach you how God intended man to live toward Him and how through the work of the cross we can overcome our sin nature and live a life holy and pleasing to God.

• The Creation of The Spirit, Soul and Body

- The Spirit

“²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;... ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 1:26-27

We know from scripture that God is spirit (**John 4:24**). God has made man firstly a spirit being like Himself. Man is created of the same substance as God i.e. spirit. As God is eternal so we will exist for eternity because our spirits are of the same substance. Now in saying that we are made of the same substance as God does not mean that God takes a piece of Himself and then forms each person.

We are not a part of God but are created separately by Him of the very same substance, namely spirit. At conception our embryonic bodies are given a spirit from God which is created to seek Him and love Him.

Every man must choose where he will spend eternity; either in heaven or in hell. Hell was created for Satan and his angels as an eternal place of torment. Those who reject the love of God given to us through Jesus will join the devil in hell for eternity (**Matthew 25:41-46**). Because spirit cannot die we must exist after this life in either eternal torment or eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

“For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit...” **Romans 1:9**

“With my soul I have desired You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; ...” **Isaiah 26:9**

Man’s spirit was created to have fellowship with God. It is through our spirit that we are able to know God and commune with Him. God is spirit and man has been created with a like spirit to know his Maker.

Before a person is born again, the Holy Spirit begins to draw him to Jesus by convicting him of his sinfulness. This work of the Holy Spirit is done in the spirit of man. It is in our spirit or conscience that we hear the still firm voice of the Holy Spirit pointing us to the Cross of Jesus.

The spirit of man is the noblest part of him for it alone was created in the image of God and it alone can have fellowship with God. It is vital that Christians know that we are created to serve God in the Spirit (by the Holy Spirit’s enabling power) through our spirit. We are born again in our spirit. We must serve God through our spirit. Our souls are not born again but must rather be renewed (**Romans 12:2**) to come into obedience to our spirits.

The spirit of man is often referred to in the scriptures as either the “heart”, “conscience” or the “inner man”.

- The Body

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, ...”

Genesis 2:7

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” **Genesis 3:19**

God created man’s body from the dust of the earth. As our spirits were created from the same substance as God, so our bodies are created from the same natural substances of the earth. The human body comprises of 60 of the 118 elements that are found on the Periodic Table*. It is astounding to think that a 70kg man has amongst other elements, 4.2 grams of iron, 20mg of tin, 2mg of silver and 0.02mg of gold in his body.

Our bodies were created to relate to the physical world. Our five senses assimilate information from around us and pass this onto our souls (mind/intellect). It is through the body that man has gained his understanding of the natural world.

Notes:

The Body

“I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are you’re works...”

Psalms 139:14

The body was created to glorify God through song and dance, and through worship. Through our bodies our spirits were given a voice to worship, hands to serve, feet to carry the love of God and eyes to behold His glorious creation. Our bodies are gloriously made and testify of the omniscience of God.

Because of sin our bodies have now become defiled. Mankind now burns with lust. He perverts the God given desires between a man and a woman into perversion and lewdness. (**Romans 1:24-27**) Instead of our bodies being clothed modestly and discreetly (**1 Timothy 2:9-10**), today's fashion exposes our bodies and highlights the very areas clothes are meant to conceal. We defile our bodies with alcohol, drugs, and gluttony. We deface the temple of the Holy Spirit with tattoos and body-piercing. Practises which were forbidden by God through the Law of Moses (**Leviticus 19:28**)

Although created to be eternal the body has been made subject to decay and death through the fall of man. At the return of Jesus our mortal bodies will be changed and we will have a body like Jesus has. Our new bodies will be able to relate to both the physical and spiritual worlds.
(**1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Philippians 3:21**)

- The Soul

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (**KJV**)
Genesis 2:7

Adam's soul was created when God placed a spirit (*the breath of life*) into the body He had formed. This fusion of spirit and body or heavenly and earthly created a third element namely the soul. The soul was created to be the medium through which man's spirit could express itself in the physical world and through which the body could partake of the spirit's life.

The soul consists of three distinct parts namely the mind, the will and the emotions.

The mind or our intellect is the organ through which we store information about the physical world. It is the organ of reason and thought. Through our mind we store memories and observations gained through our five senses.

The emotions are our feelings. Our emotions give expression to our life and our relationships. They make us feel alive, without them our life would be relegated to a detached, cold and meaningless existence

The will is the decision-making organ of the soul and ultimately of the whole man. The will draws information from the mind, the emotions and the spirit. Based on their input, the will makes decisions that affect the whole man.

Through the soul, the spirit was created to bring the body into obedience to God and His will. This was God's purpose at creation, however this purpose was perverted through mans sin.

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2. The Consequence of Sin on the Spirit, Soul and Body of Man

Read Genesis 3:3-9

What we have discussed until now was God's perfect purpose in the creation of man. Only Adam ever enjoyed, for a time, the privilege of living in the fullness of all that God created man to be. After his sin in the Garden all men would be doomed to corruption. Our once glorious bodies that were created to be eternal are now subject to death and decay. Our spirits that were once alive to God have now become separated through sin and disobedience. The soul that was once subservient to the spirit has now a new master. A master that is in every respect contrary to the Lord and His will. A master that "*is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be...*" (**Romans 8:7**). This carnal nature rules supreme in the lives of all who are unsaved thrusting them further and further from salvation.

This new lord is called sin and has attached itself to the lives of all men. The scriptures use the following terms to describe this sin nature;

- the flesh (**Galatians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11; Romans 7:18**)
- the old man (**Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9**)
- the carnal mind (**Romans 8:7; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3**)

We all are born with a sin nature, "*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*" **Psalms 51:5**. This sin nature separates us from the will and purposes of God but praise be to Him because He sent forth His son, born of a virgin, to redeem us and set us free from the power of sin.

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," **Romans 3:23**

3. The Sin Nature

"⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (**Romans 8:7-8**)

It is very easy to define and understand the character of the sin nature of man. Our sin nature is in every respect the complete opposite of God's nature and character. God is light our sin nature is darkness. Jesus is selfless, carnal man is selfish. God loves to give unconditionally the carnal man can only give if in giving he is assured of receiving much more in return.

To sum up in a word the sin nature; the word "self" is most appropriate. The sin nature is only concerned with self. What people think of me, how to please me, how can I benefit and excel, my needs and desires above anyone else. This is the nature of self.

There is only room for one I AM in all creation. That title belongs to Jesus. The little, "i am", our sin/carnal nature, seeks to take the place as the object of worship. Just as satan sought to overthrow God and rule (**Isaiah 14:12-14**), so our sin nature seeks to rule our beings in the place of our spirits. It is to Jesus alone that we are to submit and render service. The carnal nature is unable to ever submit to Jesus.

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"The Heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it - **Jeremiah 17:9**

“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” **Romans 7:28**

The sin nature exerts its powerful attack against the soul of man and particularly against his mind. It is impossible for the unsaved to resist the power of the sin nature as it can only be rendered powerless in Christ

• The Fruit of the Sin Nature

Listed below are some of fruits or expressions of mans sin nature (taken from; **1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 1:22-31**).

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Adultery and Fornication | - Uncleaness (depleted morals) |
| - Lewdness (depravity) | - Idolatry |
| - Sorcery | - Hatred |
| - Contentions (argumentative) | - Extortion |
| - Jealousies | - Outbursts of wrath |
| - Selfish ambitions | - Heresies |
| - Dissensions (discord or dissent) | - Envy |
| - Murders | - Drunkenness |
| - Tumults (uproars, mayhem) | - Thefts |
| - Homosexuality, lesbianism & Sodomy | |
| - Violence | - Boasting |
| - Disobedience | - Unforgiving |
| - unmerciful/brutal | |

We have all exhibited many of these fruits both before and after our salvation. It causes us to despise ourselves and we become convinced that we will never begin to walk in holiness before God.

It is evident that the carnal nature of man is rooted in every kind of evil and left unchecked will prevent the Christian from becoming the person that God has intended him to become through the cross of Jesus.

• Sins Power over the Soul

Romans 7:14 -25 (Read)

In **verse 15**, Paul declares that his desire is to obey God and this desire he says comes from the *inward man* [his spirit] (**verse 22**). However, he says that sins power in him is too strong, so that he cannot do the good that he wants to do.

Every man has this battle inside him. We all fail. We cannot overcome the power of sin by will-power and determination. The power of sin is too strong for any man to overcome. The will is unable to overcome the sin nature in its own ability. This is why all other religions fail to produce followers with godly character. No soul can overcome sin. Sin can only be overcome through the power of the Holy Spirit residing in the regenerated spirit of the born-again believer.

“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” (**verse 23**)

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“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” (Galatians 5:17)

There is a continual war being waged for the control of the soul of the believer. Both the Spirit and the sin nature want to control the soul in order to express their natures. Although we have a will we can never be our own master. If we do not choose to follow our spirit which is influenced by the Holy Spirit, we will follow our carnal nature which is influenced by the works of darkness. It is our soul that gives voice, influence and identity to either the spirit or the sin nature. Therefore our minds become a battleground as these two elements wage war against each other for control of the soul.

“²⁴O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

Paul declares a spiritual reality which is as follows. Our souls can be made to serve God but our flesh or sin nature can only serve sin. It cannot be saved as the spirit can be or renewed to serve God as the soul can. There is only one way that God could deal with our sin natures and this He did through the Cross.

6. The Carnal Christian

“For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” (1 Corinthians 3:3)

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

. *“¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly sensual and demonic.” (James 3:14-15)*

Read James 4:1-3

A carnal Christian is one who although they have been born again, their sin nature has not been but to death. As a result, their carnal nature continually dominates them and they show little difference when compared to the unsaved. These Christians need to understand their condition and allow the Holy Spirit to begin transforming them.

The carnal Christian is most dangerous in the church as he will bring the name of Jesus into disrepute amongst the unsaved. He will be used by the enemy to bring strife, contention and division which could lead to people being hurt and leaving the church.

The carnal Christian must be lovingly shown his error and disciplined to maturity in Christ.

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7. The Soulish Christian

Read Acts 1:6-7 and compare with,

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

The disciple's minds were not yet renewed to the will and purposes of God. His spirit could not influence his soul's way of thinking; he was therefore restricted in his mind to only see things through this unrenewed soul. This is the state of the soulish Christian.

(Read) Colossians 2:20-23

“²³Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.” (verse 23 KJV)

A soulish Christian is one who serves the Lord through his soul and not through His spirit. He has grasped with the mind the Word of God. It makes sense to his natural mind/understanding, so he lives it out by the power of his will. A soulish believer will labour extensively for the Lord as he has a strong conviction in his mind that what he is doing is pleasing to God. It is important to note that this conviction does not emanate from his regenerated spirit but rather his soul.

He will be involved in as many diverse “kingdom” activities as possible because he has not yet learned submission to the leading of the Spirit for His appointed service. He has not yet learned to hear the voice of the Spirit and be led by Him.

A soulish believer will try to manifest the fruit of the Spirit in his character but will always fail because his Christian life is not empowered by the Holy Spirit operating through his inner man/spirit. His moods are unpredictable because he is moved by his emotions and has not yet experienced the peace and joy that Christ alone gives us in our inner man that causes us to not be swayed by the ever-changing circumstances of this life.

Soulful believers often think that they have come to maturity in Christ because they have great assurance in their minds that they understand the ways and Word of God. Their emotions soar during prayer and worship and they always want to feel the presence of the Spirit. They have not learned the value of silence nor have come to the assurance that God is present even though His presence is not manifested in their body or souls. They have not learnt to discern God's presence in their spirit man and seek to touch Him through soul and body.

“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 the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 3:2)

The soul and spirit were created tightly knit together because their union is vital for the expression of the spirit's life in a material/natural world. Because the fall has left the spirit powerless against the soul,

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As the Word has its perfect work in his life, he soon learns to discern between the voice of his soul and the voice of his spirit. He begins to be moved by his inner man only and is unmoved by the unstable soul. Once the believer comes to this place in his spiritual development, he now begins his journey to becoming a spiritual man.

"I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. "(1 John 2:14)

(Galatians 2:20)

What is a spiritual man? It is a man who has died to self. He has taken up his cross and has chosen to lay down his life and has crucified his soulish ambitions and desires. He has understood what the Lord taught about laying down your life that you may have life (**Matthew 10:39**).

“For I know that in me...nothing good dwells.” (Romans 7:18)

“And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” (Matthew 21:44)

The spiritual man has understood the futility of allowing the soul to have pre-eminence. He knows that the soul of man is corrupt and needs to be renewed. He daily brings his soul into submission to his spirit, which in turn is brought daily into a deep fellowship with his God and Saviour through prayer, worship and study of the Word.

His soul has been renewed to such an extent that he no longer seeks after his own desires. He desires only the things of God. He wants for himself only the things that God wants for him. As Paul writes, “*it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me*”. The spiritual man has completely surrendered his life so that he can say that it is now Christ that lives through me. The nature of Christ flows through him and the fruit of the Spirit is richly manifested in his life. “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control.*” (Galatians 5:23)

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He walks in the Spirit (**Galatians 5:16**) and is no longer bound by the influence of the flesh. He can say, “*imitate me just as I also imitate Christ.*” (**1 Corinthians 11:1**)

We can all become spiritual men, it begins by crucifying your old life so that Christ can be allowed to reign in you by the Holy Spirit. WILL YOU DIE TO SELF ?!

Overcoming the Sin Nature

1 Corinthians 4:8 *“You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us-and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you.*

Romans 6:3-19 (Read)

“6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin.”
(Romans 6:6-7)

We have already learned that the sin nature can never be renewed or saved to serve God. It has its origin in darkness “*and what accord has Christ with Belial?*”(2 **Corinthians 6:15**) That which is birthed from satan cannot be saved it must be destroyed.

That is what the Father did through Jesus on the cross. We all know that Jesus died for our sins but few believers are aware that Jesus came foremost to destroy the stronghold of Satan over man (**1 John 3:8**).

How did God destroy our sin nature? By nailing it to the cross through Jesus, “*our old man was crucified with Him.*” In the spirit realm, the Father placed upon Jesus the sin nature of every person who has or ever will live. Jesus was the perfect sacrificial lamb who lived and died sinless to undo what Adam did in the Garden (**Romans 5:12-19**). Our carnal nature was nailed to Calvary’s Cross through the body of Jesus. In the spirit realm it is still there just as the blood of Jesus is before the throne of God waiting to be appropriated by anyone who will approach the throne of grace by faith.

“That the body of sin (sin nature) might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” Our sin nature was *done away with* or as the Greek directly translates, “rendered inoperative” (made powerless) through the Cross. Sin’s power was broken over every believer almost 2000 years ago and that is as much a spiritual reality as is salvation.

But if this is so then why do most believers battle with their sin nature? The answer is twofold. Firstly, our sin nature is not dead but rather stripped of its power. In other words, it exists but in Christ it no longer has the same ability to dominate the believer's life. Many Christians can testify to living a holy life for a short time after their

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

(Galatians 2:20)

“¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”

(Galatians 6:14-15)

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salvation. The desire to sin had completely left them. The stronghold of sin had been broken over them and they were free to follow the desire of their reborn spirits and serve the Lord. But what happened? Just as Satan was powerless when he tempted Adam so our sin nature seeks to use guile and cunning to regain its former domination of our lives. Christians hear the voice of the defeated old man and believe that they have fallen into sin because they have had a wicked thought. They think on this and begin to feel as though they are backsliding. Instead of understanding what is happening and rebuke the thoughts of the old man the Christian begins to doubt his condition before God and through unbelief or ignorance empowers the old man.

This is then the second reason that believers battle to overcome their sin natures. They simply do not know what Christ has done for them. They do not know that the sin nature is defeated. Note the words that the apostle Paul uses in **Romans chapter 6**.

-verse 3 “do you not know...”

-verse 6 “knowing this...”

-verse 9 “knowing that...”

-verse 11 “Likewise you also, reckon (consider) yourselves...”

-verse 16 “do you not know...”

The Holy Spirit through Paul is appealing to the soul (mind) of the believer to come into understanding and revelation of what the Lord has done. Our minds must be renewed to line up with what God has done for us in the spirit (**Romans 12:2**). Remember that the mind is the battlefield on which the spirit and flesh war to gain control of the individual. The spirit by the Holy Spirit fights for the soul to understand what God has done. Conversely the flesh through the enemy seeks to keep the believers soul blinded to this reality (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24)

Through faith in the finished work of the Cross the believer crucifies his sin nature. He has received the understanding that the power of sin is broken. This understanding releases the manifestation of the victory over sin into his life. Thereafter, he stands fiercely against every attempt of the old man which tries to regain its previous place of dominance.

The victory over sin is won. The battle has been fought and Christ has conquered the enemy. The believer must now appropriate through faith what has been won. Renew your mind. Meditate and know that sin has been defeated and stripped of its power in your life (**1 John 3:5-6**). Do not let sin deceive you. Sins only power now is deception, do not be deceived! Know in you soul, know in your mind what Christ has done. Let your will determine to believe and you will experience the victory over sin that Jesus has won for you.

We will finally be rid of our sin nature when we are united with our Lord. Until then we will fall short and sin but we do not have to be enslaved by the same sins over and over again. The Lord knows that we will not be perfect and His blood cleanses us from sin. Do not let Satan take advantage of you when you fall and tell you that you can’t be free from sins domination. You can and you will find that you will begin to walk-in ever-increasing holiness toward God.

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5. Renewing the Mind

Although we briefly looked at renewing our minds in the previous lesson, the subject is so vital for the Christian that we will now take a deeper look at this subject.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

“²³And to be renewed in the spirit of your mind,²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:23)

The Christian walk for the new believer is 10% spiritual and 90% intellectual. What is meant by this? Simply, that the new Christian will spend 90% of his energies to get his soul to line up or come into agreement with spiritual reality. What God has done in the spirit is all that God is going to do until we are united with Christ in heaven. *“Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who did bless us in every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).* *“... His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, (2 Peter 1:3).* Our spirits receive with ease the things of the Spirit and the Word but our minds which are so programmed by wrong thought patterns must be renewed to come into agreement with our spirits. Our spirits are being renewed daily by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 4:16) but we are to yield our souls by an act of our will to the Lordship of Jesus through obedience to His word and submission to the Holy Spirit.

In **Romans 12:2** Paul uses the word *transform* to describe the process that our souls must undergo. *Transform* comes from the Greek word; metamorphoō, which means to change, transfigure or transform. This is the root of our English word metamorphosis. Just like a caterpillar must change its shape and nature through the process of metamorphosis to become a butterfly so too must the Christian submit his soul to the transforming power of the Word of God.

For the caterpillar, metamorphosis can only begin at death. The caterpillar must die to its old nature. It must become inactive in its pursuit of life so that it can be transformed not by its own efforts but by the premeditated inherent design of God its Creator. The only action the caterpillar can take is to stop eating and feeding “self”, spin a cocoon and surrender to God’s design.

In like manner, the Christian can only begin the process of renewing his mind when he is willing to lay down his soul life and submit himself to the working of the Spirit and the Word. For the caterpillar there awaits the life of the butterfly and for the Christian, *“the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24)*

What is soul life? It is our mind sets and emotions which express themselves through our conduct that have been shaped by our sin nature and our experiences in life without God. Do you sulk when you do not get your own way? Are you easily offended? Quick to lose your temper? Given to foul language? Divisive?

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All these are expressions of the un-renewed soul. This soul life is contrary to the spirit and must be renewed if the young Christian is to grow in Christ and begin to taste of the heavenly gifts. *"¹And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;³ for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:2-3)*

How do we lay down our souls to God? We must acknowledge that our souls (thoughts, emotions and characters) are in need of renewing. We must confess to God that we need Him to help us renew our minds, *"for without Me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5) Like the caterpillar we must present ourselves to God and allow Him to do the work. It is God who will change us as we study the scriptures and meditate on the Word.

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil its lusts." (Romans 13:14)

Hebrews 4:12 (Read). The word of God cuts like a knife and reveals that which is of God and that which is of the souls own life. By repenting and yielding our souls to that which the Word and Spirit reveal we will begin to renew our minds.

"³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope." (Romans 5:3-4)

God will allow difficult circumstances to test you so that your character can be transformed. It is vital for every Christian to know that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. His goal with our lives is to transform us into the image of His Son, Jesus (**Romans 8:29**). The un-renewed soul can only think in terms of its own comfort and needs. Because it is self-centred it cannot be used by God. God will test us and try us until we submit to Him and allow Him to make us selfless.

The renewed mind is a mind that is in yielded agreement with the Word of God. It is mind that has come to know through experience the life of God. It has been washed by the Word. It is submitted to the spirit and reflects its life as the spirit man is transformed by the Holy Spirit closer and closer to the image of Jesus. (**2 Corinthians 3:18**)

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