

SPIRIT SOUL & BODY

Jn 4:24 God is a Spirit, (a spiritual being), and those who worship HIM, must worship HIM in spirit and in truth (reality).

This Scriptural Truth is the PRIMARY REASON FOR THIS TEACHING. I PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL OPEN OUR SPIRITUAL EYES TO A REVELATION OF THIS TRUTH, THAT WE MIGHT COME TO UNDERSTAND OUR NEED TO RELATE TO THE LORD IN THE REALM OF OUR RECREATED/BORN AGAIN SPIRIT MAN.

Our soul (mind, will, & emotions) has been trained by our personal experiences, family beliefs, religious instruction, and by our cultural background. Apart from the sanctification/transformation process of renewing our mind to the Word of God, our soul cannot relate to God in a framework of spiritual and Scriptural truth. This teaching is to help us see the ways that we have been relating to the Lord, and the Word of God, from a soulish/carnal/religious prospective, rather than from our born again, recreated, spirit man.

Heb 4:12 For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the soul and spirit,[of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

Jn 6:63 It is the Spirit Who gives life [he is the Life-giver]; the flesh conveys no benefit whatever [there is no profit in it].

The Words (truth) that I have been speaking to you are Spirit and Life.

These Scriptures emphasize that we relate to God, and to the Word of God, in the Spirit and not in the flesh. This emphasizes, that not only do we need to have our souls transformed, by the renewing of our mind, but we need to know the truth about how we can release our spirit man to be all that God created it to be. We need a revelation of the hope of our calling. We are saints, who are walking in the light and the power of the Spirit Who raised Christ from the dead, and gave us a new spiritual nature. We are alive to God in our spirit.

Let's examine these truths in relation to how we can release our Spirit man to be all that God created it to be. And, to how our souls are transformed, by the renewing of our mind.

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude].....

THIS IS THE SANCTIFICATION/TRANSFORMATION OF OUR SOUL

1 Thes 5:23: And may the God of peace Himself **sanctify** you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]: and may your **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

JESUS WAS PERFECT IN SPIRIT AND SINLESS IN THOUGHT, DEED, AND ATTITUDE, HOWEVER; HIS SOUL AND HIS FLESH COULD HAVE

SINNED, IF HE HAD REFUSED TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT. YET, JESUS SUBMITTED HIS SOUL AND HIS BODY TO THE LORD TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL EVERY MOMENT OF HIS LIFE. EVERY WORD, DEED, AND MOTIVE SHOWED A SOUL, THAT WAS BROUGHT INTO TOTAL UNITY IN PURPOSE AND OBEDIENCE, WITH HIS SPIRIT. THUS, HE WAS LED BY THE SPIRIT AND OBEYED HIS FATHER, NO MATTER WHAT HE THOUGHT, FELT, OR WANTED IN HIS (self/soul) LIFE .

Mk 14:34 My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death.....v. 36.....Take away this cup from Me; yet not what I will, what you [will].

Heb 4:15b...but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sinning.

Jesus told us in John 17: 17-19 “And so for their sake and on their behalf I SANCTIFY (dedicate, consecrate,) Myself, that they also may be sanctified (dedicated, consecrated, made holy) IN THE TRUTH.

This is what Jesus lived out in His life and was praying for us, as He asked the Father to SANCTIFY us, by the WORD of TRUTH.

2 Thess 2:13 b Because God chose you from the beginning, as the first-fruits (first converts) for salvation through the SANCTIFY-ING work of the [HOLY] Spirit, and [your] belief in (adherence to, trust in, and reliance on) the TRUTH.

SANCTIFY- Grk=to make holy, purify, consecrate, be holy

Consecrate-Webster's: set apart and dedicated to the service and worship of God, to separate from a common to a sacred use, service, or purpose, as the consecration of the priests among the Israelites: the consecration of vessels in the temple.

As I was listening to tape (1), on a series of tapes about **spirit, soul, and body**, by Andrew Wommack, I realized that some of the concepts that he was teaching, were drawing me once again to this important foundational truth that should be part of all Christian discipleship. Andrew Wommack, said that a revelation of the difference between the **spirit, soul, and body**, was one of the foundational truths that under girded many of his Biblical revelations through the years. As I searched

the Scriptures on worshipping the Lord in **spirit** and in truth, and the Biblical differences, between **soul and spirit**, I agree that an understanding of this truth is imperative to our **FOUNDATION** of **spiritual** worship. As we have a revelation of the Scriptural difference between **soul** and **spirit**, it will enhance our ability to be led by the Spirit, and release the fruit and power that is in our new “**spiritual man**.”

The CORNERSTONE OF OUR FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE IS: the gospel about the Lord Jesus Christ. **HE IS THE CORNER STONE OF THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and all doctrine must be built upon the revealed truth about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Savior, and Redeemer of mankind.**

AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST AS OUR SAVIOR:

1. We need a revelation of: Who the God of the Bible really is, as revealed through Jesus Christ, and a spiritual revelation of the **WORD OF GOD**, as in: **Jn 6:63**.

AND

2. We need a revelation of who we are as new creatures in Christ, so that we can worship our Heavenly Father in Spirit and **IN TRUTH**.
3. Christians need to be taught the Biblical truths, that will enable them to recognize and identify the division between the **soul** and the **spirit**.

OUR FOUNDATION:

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH FOR ANY CHRISTIAN, WHO IS WANTING TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT. WE ARE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MIND, AND CONFORMED INTO CHRIST’S IMAGE, AS WE, BY FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING, RECEIVE INTO OUR INNERMOST BEING, THE SCRIPTURAL TRUTH OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIKENESS TO JESUS OUR LORD. THIS HAPPENS THROUGH THE RENEWING OF OUR MIND TO THE BIBLICAL TRUTHS REGARDING, SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY.

FUNDAMENTAL FACT:

Although we are a three part being, most of us in our daily life are only acknowledging and giving place to **two parts** of our God created nature. The **body** and **soul** are always acknowledged. We can always access how our **body** feels, and we can get in touch with what our **soul** is thinking and how we feel emotionally. But, most of us are out of touch with the truth about our **spiritual** nature, and therefore; in many instances, we are only relying upon the **two parts** of our **nature that were**

not born again. The Scripture, speaking about the flesh, is usually referring to the **soul and body**. At our new birth, we are spiritually a new creation, but our **soul and body** were not made new, and they are in need of the **revelation, submission, obedience, and the renewal**, that leads to **transformation**.

Jesus lived His life and conducted His ministry **led by the Holy Spirit**. He did this as the Son of Man, so, **He had to deal with the desires, feelings, and thoughts** that were part of **His soul and His fleshly appetites**. Although the Word of God tells us that Jesus was perfect, **He could have sinned**, if He had not been completely submitted in every way to being obedient to the Father. **SEE:** Jn 5:17, 19, & 30
Jn 6:38 Jn 14:10 Lu 22:42-44 Mt 26:38-45 Mk 14:33-31, Heb 4:15 and Mt 4:1-10

The **SOUL** is the (**self**) part of a person that encompasses our personality. It is also the part that includes: what we are thinking, how we feel emotionally, and what we want or will to do. The soul will influence and greatly determine our words, responses, reactions, attitudes, and behavior. In other words **the soul represents - the self-life**.

If we take an inventory of the **soul** area, we can tell quickly if we are: sad, happy, fearful, depressed, confused, angry, grieving, shamed, condemned, or rejected, Etc. All of these feelings are immediately accessed in the area of our **SOUL**. They may affect your body, and, in fact, probably will, but they are initiated and related to the area of you that is called the **SOUL**. (**The part that relates to SELF**).

When we are rejected, falsely accused, betrayed, abandoned, embarrassed by ridicule or criticism, it is the SOUL of a Christian that chooses whether to be like Christ, or to yield to what we feel, think, and want to do, in response to how we have been treated. (Again, it is the SELF part of us).

A **SOUL** that is transformed by the Word and submitted to the will of God, will respond from thoughts that have been taken captive to the Word of God. A transformed **soul** will be able to cast down thoughts that are contrary to Christ. One whose mind is renewed to the truth of God's Word, will be empowered to deal with the fleshly responses, that a soulish – carnal Christian would tend to exhibit, if he had not experienced the sanctifying/transforming work of the Word and the Spirit.

The carnal mind, [not renewed to the Word of God], will respond with engrained responses that are born of defending **self** and protecting **self**. These will come from

a **soulish** nature, like a knee jerk reaction to: what **they** think, how **they** feel, and **their carnal belief systems**, and it's "**all about self.**"

EVERY TIME WE ARE IN A HURTFUL, SCARY, DEPRESSING SITUATION, WE WILL HAVE A CHOICE OF WHAT DOMINATES US.

A **soul**, that is in agreement with the Word of God, and in unity with a born again **spirit**, WILL BE WILLING TO PUT ASIDE: REJECTION, FEAR, ANGER, UNFORGIVENESS, REVENGE, WITHDRAWAL, ARGUING, JUDGMENT, CRITICISM, SELF PROTECTION, SELF DEFENSE, SELF JUSTIFICATION, AND SELF CONTROL, in order for their submission to exhibit the fruit of the **Spirit**, in what they feel, think, say, and do.

This will not be a natural response, but a response from one who has presented themselves as a living sacrifice to their LORD, and has a revelation of the Word of God. The Word of God must be rightly divided and written in the heart and mind of a willing believer, by the Holy Spirit. This will bring about a transformation of the soul, by the renewing of the mind. As one receives the engrafted Word of God with meekness, this Word, together with the working of the Holy Spirit, will cause the truth to renew the mind and save the soul from THE SELF LIFE. Thus, SELF will be willing to give up its natural desire to have its own way and to defend and protect SELF, and will be in unity with the Spiritual Man's desire to make JESUS the LORD of self.

NOW, LET'S LOOK AT THE BODY:

IN REGARD TO THE BODY, the same guidelines can be used in order to take inventory of this part of us. If we want to know how the body is feeling physically, we will be able to get immediate natural and physical responses. We will know if our **BODY** is experiencing: pain, weakness, dizziness, nausea, sleepiness, or if we are feeling strong, hyped up, invigorated, energized, or sexually aroused.

As one checks out the **soul**, by what it is thinking, feeling, and wanting, the **body** can also be evaluated by how it is feeling and by what can be established physically, scientifically, and medically.

THE SPIRIT MAN 1 Cor 2:11 Prov 20:27

The physical, biological, mental, emotional, and intellectual method of inventory won't work with the **SPIRIT of a man**. We cannot access in a **natural, physical,**

emotional, or intellectual way, the SPIRIT PART OF US. We can't contact our **SPIRIT** through our intellect and emotions, or with a blood test, ex-ray, or MRI. Our **spirit** may respond to what is going on in our **soul** and our **body**, but even so, it is separated from the natural realm by the realm of the **spirit**. A **spirit** is designated to a realm that is separate and distinct from the natural realm. That which is **spiritual**, is born of the **spirit**, and it is not open for discernment from our **soul and body**. In the natural realm, the realm of the soul and the body, we can access things through: what we think, feel, or want, or by what is going on biologically or medically. These are not ways that will discern or reveal anything in the realm of the **spirit**.

OUR SPIRIT CANNOT BE ACCESSED IN ANY NATURAL, PHYSICAL, or MEDICAL WAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jesus put it this way in John 3:6 What is born of the flesh is flesh [of the physical is physical]; and what is born of **THE SPIRIT IS SPIRIT**. V.7You must all be born anew (from above). **THAT THAT IS BORN FROM ABOVE IS SPIRIT.**

THAT that is BORN OF THE FLESH IS FLESH.

THAT that is BORN OF THE SPIRIT IS:

A "new creature," created in Christ. We are born again with spiritual senses and a spiritual mind, [the mind of Christ]. This recreated spiritual man also has spiritual gifts and fruits. This new person that has been made a partaker of the Lord's divine nature, will have spiritual hearing, spiritual vision, spiritual insight, spiritual power, and all of the attributes and characteristics that make one complete in Christ.

The **spirit** of this **spiritual** man may be interrelated with the flesh and the soul, but they are not directly connected, so that one can contact the **SPIRIT** by using the **FLESH** or the **SOUL** of man.

When we start trying to contact something spiritually, by using the body - our flesh, or by using our mind and the emotions of the soul, we are getting into an area of the occult, and what we contact will not be of God.

God designed our being, so that we could be born anew, and be in constant fellowship with Him, through becoming a new **spiritually** alive creation. Our **body**

wasn't recreated, our **soul** wasn't recreated, but our **SPIRIT** became a new creation in Christ Jesus. We became a new "**spiritual man**". **Jn 3:6 2 Cor 5:17-18 Eph 2:10 1 Pet 1:23 Jam 1:18 Ro 6:3-6 8:29-30 Ep 2:1,10**

1 Cor 6:17 But the person who is united to the Lord, becomes **ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM.**

Col 2:10 And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ, you too are filled with the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – you reach your full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

John 6:63 It is the Spirit, Who gives life. [He is the life giver]; the flesh conveys no benefit whatever. [There is no profit in it]. The **WORDS (truths) that I have been speaking to you are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE.**

Jam 1:21-24 The Word here is telling the Lord's followers to get rid of the unclean and with a meek and humble spirit, receive the Word of God, which implanted in the heart, is able to save the soul.

[But if, they are not doers of the Word – if they don't obey the message, and are only those who listen to it, they are betraying themselves into deception by reasoning in their mind what is contrary to the truth].

v. 23 For if anyone only listens to the Word, without obeying it, and being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror;

v. 24 For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like. (***This is like looking in the mirror of God's Word without believing, receiving, and obeying it. It causes us to forget who we are in Christ.***

We go our own way according to the carnal mind and refuse - even hinder - the process of our sanctification. The carnal mind will always refuse Rom 12:1-2.)

Rom 8:7 The carnal mind does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

v.25 But he who looks carefully into the perfect law of liberty, and is faithful to it and perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets, but an active doer [who obeys], he shall be blessed in his doing, (his life of obedience).

THE LAW OF LIBERTY, IS THE GOSPEL THAT LIBERATES US, AND GIVES US NEW LIFE, AS A NEW CREATION, IN CHRIST JESUS. 2 Cor 3:18 Eph 5:26 Jn 15:3 Jam 1:21-24 Rom 12:2 Rom 8:2 2 Cor 5:17

In this gospel of the Kingdom, the **LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS, HATH MADE US FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH**, and as the Holy Spirit reveals to us the **WORD OF TRUTH**, we begin to see what we are like as a new **spiritual** creation **IN CHRIST**. That is a gospel that **liberates**.

WE CAN LOOK INTO THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD, and behold what we are as a BORN AGAIN, CHILD OF GOD. 2 Co 3:18

THE WORD OF GOD, WILL MIRROR TO US TRUTH: Jam 1:21 2 Thes 2:13

The Truth - Our New Spiritual Man [2 Pet 1:4]

We are **BORN AGAIN spiritually**, therefore; we are forgiven, redeemed, sanctified, righteous, with the mind and wisdom of Christ, *in our spirit mind*. We are raised up and given joint seating with Him in the heavenlies. We have been made a partaker of His divine nature. We have been delivered out of the power and dominion of darkness, and translated into God's Kingdom, as children of God. He has chosen to make our bodies the temple of His Holy Spirit. We have been redeemed from the curse and the iniquities of our ancestors. The veil of spiritual blindness has been removed from our hearts and minds, and we can see and discern *spiritual truth – and the lies of the enemy*. As we repent of the sins, lies, and false beliefs that have taken us captive, and receive with meekness the **truth of God's Word, we recover ourselves** from the snare of our enemy. As we behold this new image of our recreated **spirit man**, in the **mirror of God's Word**, We are being renewed in the **SPIRIT** of our mind, and we can begin to see **WHO WE REALLY ARE SPIRITUALLY**. If we will believe and receive the **TRUTH ABOUT WHO WE ARE AS A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST**, it will bring about a change in our inner most being.

Because our **SPIRIT** has received this **revelation of who we are as a born again child of God**, it will strengthen and energize our **SPIRIT** and begin a transforming affect on our **SOUL** and our **BODY**. This change is not by works of righteousness or by the **power** of our mind, or the changing of how we **feel**, but it is a **SPIRIT AND LIFE** change – *that process of sanctification* - that happens as we receive with a humble heart, the **TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD**, about who we are **In Christ** - and what our new **SELF** is like.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT TRUE CHANGE CAN COME ABOUT IN OUR LIVES. BY FAITH, WE RECEIVE WHAT GOD SAYS, - PUTTING

THAT FIRST - AND GIVING HIS WORD OF TRUTH FINAL AUTHORITY OVER OUR SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY.

Change will not happen, because we decide to change. It will not happen by trying to be a better person and keeping the letter of the law. It won't happen by our memorization of scriptures, or by using our **soulish** will power to quit doing certain things that are ungodly. It doesn't work, when we try to change how we feel, by controlling our emotions and modifying our behavior. All of these fleshly and **soulish** tools are useless to effect any **lasting change** in our thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Those things will change, because of our **spirit** being flooded with revelation from God's Word, and by the power of the Holy Spirit that will make that revelation **SPIRIT AND LIFE to us.**

2 Cor 3:18 And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold **Amp.** [in the **Word of God**] as **IN A MIRROR** the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image, in ever-increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another, [for this comes] **from the LORD, [Who is] the SPIRIT.**

[Only the Word and Spirit can transform a soul]

We become born again, a new creation in Christ, and behold in God's Word, truths that are Spirit and Life. We look in the mirror of His Word to find out what our **SPIRIT** looks like. We don't find out from our **SOUL**, by consulting our feelings, to see if we feel forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness. We go to the Word of God and see that we have received Christ's righteousness as a gift. It doesn't matter if our feelings say we are guilty, condemned, and unrighteous, the mirror of **God's Word** says, Jesus has been made our righteousness, and in Him, we are righteous. This process of sanctification/transformation continues with each revealed truth and the working of Holy Spirit. Line upon line, precept by precept, degree by degree, we are changed as we believe and receive each revelation of truth through the working of the Holy Spirit.

If we will receive with meekness the engrafted truth of this Word, it will set our soul free to be delivered from feelings of guilt, shame, condemnation, unworthiness, and the religious deception that binds us to the lie, that our righteousness was based on what we did or did not do. The truth is: our **FAITH IN CHRIST**, and the cleansing of **HIS BLOOD**, is what removed our sin and unrighteousness.

Jam 1:21 Rom 8:1-2 Rev 1:5 1 Cor 1:30 2 Cor 5:21 Isa 61:10

PASSIVITY OF THE SPIRIT

I believe that passivity of **spirit** will be closely related to the **soul** that has not been transformed by the renewing of the mind. If a **spirit** is **passive**, it means that it is idle, inoperative, inactive, lethargic, and not resisting, when resisted.

A believer's mind can be active, and yet be unrenewed to the truth of God's Word. If a person is very intelligent and accustomed to making decisions based on intellectual reasoning and logic, he may trust in his own belief system and thought processes when determining what way he will take. Our **soul** can unintentionally be refusing to be led by the **Spirit**, when it is the part of us that decides what we will say, what we will do, or what way we will go, in any given situation.

We can be moved in our **spirit**, free in the **spirit**, or our **spirit** can be bound and passive. If we ignore our **spiritual** senses, and refuse to give place to them, our **soul** will take control, by default. When that happens, our **spirit** will be **passive**, and what we say or do, will be determined by how our **soul** has been trained to respond. **That is passivity of spirit.**

Our **soulish**/fleshly control is ruled by what we feel, think, and want, and if we don't, bring it into submission to the Word and The Holy Spirit, **we** will be refusing freedom to our **spirit** man and its intended role of leadership in a life that is to be lived, walking according to the **spirit**, as led by the Spirit of God.

If we are led by the Spirit of God, according to the Word of God, we are progressively being sanctified. By our **soulish** choices, we not only quench the Holy Spirit, but we quench the leadership of our "**spirit** man," that has been given the mind of Christ.

Our **soul** is supposed to submit to the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and our new **spiritual** man, that has been created with the mind of Christ. This is part of the process of being wholly consecrated, **spirit**, **soul**, and **body**, for the service, purpose, and worship of God.

When Jesus said that His soul was exceeding sorrowful, even unto death, he was in a crisis of the will in the garden of Gethsemene. He sweat drops of blood, as he

anguished over the decision to drink the cup of God's will. As He prayed and struggled in his inner self, there was a battle going on for what choice His mind and will was going to make. Would his soul win the argument of reason, logic, and self-preservation, or would he be so strengthened in His inner man, by prayer and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that His spirit man would rise up and be victorious over the decision that His soul would make. He went to prayer three times and requested prayer from His closest friends, before He finally came forward and said, "Not my will, but Thine be done." That was a triumph of a spirit man that was definitely NOT PASSIVE. It was alert, sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and in agreement with what God said and what God wanted of Him. That took first place in the Lord's soul, so that the desire for the preservation of His self life was submitted in thought, feeling, and will, to what His spirit and the Holy Spirit were calling Him to do. The passive spirit would have given in to what He felt, and what He thought was best for Him, and what *self* wanted to do. A person with a weak and passive spirit would have submitted to the strength of the soul's cry for its protection, preservation, and desire. (Note Eph 3:16 We must be strengthened in our spirit man, if we are to apprehend all that God has for us to do, to be, and to obtain, in the power of the Spirit that is within us.)

Max Lucado wrote: "We do all that we can to live and not die. God, however, says we must die in order to live. When you sow a seed, it must die in the ground before it can grow. What we see as the ultimate tragedy, He sees as the ultimate triumph."

With this little excerpt from his devotional, he references: John 12:24.

In John 12:21 a group of men, who were Greeks, wanted to see Jesus, so Phillip and Andrew went and told Jesus that the men wanted to see Him.

v. 23 And Jesus answered them; The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified and exalted.

John 12:24 I ASSURE YOU, MOST SOLEMNLY I TELL YOU, UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE EARTH AND DIES, IT REMAINS [just one grain]: it never becomes more, but lives] BY ITSELF ALONE. BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES MANY OTHERS AND YIELDS A RICH HARVEST.

v. 25 Anyone who loves his life loses it, but anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. [Whoever has no love for, no concern for, no regard for his life here on earth, but despises it, preserves his life forever and ever.]

v 26 If anyone serves Me, he must continue to follow Me [to cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying.] and where-

ever I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

v. 27 Now, my soul is troubled and distressed, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour [of trial and agony]? But it was for this very purpose that I have come to this hour [that I might undergo it].

Paul wrote to the Galatians and spoke of this war that goes on within a person, as the flesh/soulish part of us, that is antagonistic to our spiritual nature, wars with our new spiritual nature. The soul always wants to preserve itself. Even Jesus, as the Son of Man, was tempted to not drink the cup of the trial and agony of taking our sin upon Himself and thereby facing crucifixion and separation from God.

Let's look at Galatians the fifth chapter:

v. 16 But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh [of human nature without God].

v.17 FOR THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH ARE OPPOSED TO THE [HOLY] SPIRIT, AND THE [desires of the] SPIRIT are OPPOSED TO THE FLESH (our godless human nature); for these are ANTAGONISTIC to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free, but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.

v. 18 But, if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

v. 19 Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are: immorality, impurity, indecency, **v.20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions, (dissensions) party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies). **v.21** Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

INHERIT –Grk = be an heir OBTAIN BY INHERITANCE.

Our spiritual inheritance as a BORN AGAIN new creation is: righteousness, peace, and joy, in the Holy Ghost, but if we are not walking in the Holy Ghost, but in the deeds of the flesh, [walking according to our old corrupted nature], we will not obtain within ourselves the inheritance of righteousness, peace, and joy, that can only be released and manifested as we walk in the spirit.

NOTE: Rom 14:17the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy, in the

HOLY SPIRIT.

Luke 17:21For the kingdom of God is within you.

THEREFORE: If one has been born again, and has been made a new SPIRITUAL CREATION, he cannot continue to walk in the doings and practices of the flesh, if he is going to have the kingdom fruits of the NEW SPIRIT MAN manifested in his life. The kingdom of God is within him, and it is righteousness, peace, and joy, **IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The desires of the flesh oppose this and war against it, and this is the battle to preserve the SOUL/SELF life that is going on in all men, even the most devout believers. It went on in Christ. **Jn 12:27 Lu 22:42-44 Mt 26:38-45 Mk 14:33-41** We will all have Gethsemane's where our soul will oppose our spirit. The SOUL that is not transformed by the renewal of the mind always desires to have what it wants. So does the born again SPIRIT. The question is: **WHO WINS?**

The answer is: the one you feed the most - the one that is the strongest.

AS WE RECEIVE A REVELATION OF THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD REGARDING:

1. Who the God of the Bible is, as revealed by the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God.
2. Who we are as a child of God.
3. Who we are in Christ, and Who Christ is in us.

The power of these truths is already in our BORN AGAIN – RECREATED spirit, but it has to be released as we: RECEIVE REVELATION AND RELEASE IT BY FAITH. 2 Pet 1:2-4

This release is hindered and even stopped by the power of a soul that is not renewed to the truth of God's Word. The soul will want to believe what is most comfortable, familiar, and acceptable to it. For our transformation to be realized, through the process of the renewing of our mind, our soul will have to be willing to make Jesus the Lord and put the revelation of God's Word first place in our lives, even when it means discomfort, sacrifice, repentance, and a change of our thought patterns, actions, reactions, behavior, attitudes, and life styles. The soul, that is not transformed will never want to just lay down and give up it's SELF rights, comfort, opinions, and the attitudes that govern all of these outward manifestations.

1 Cor 3:1-1 and Heb 5: 11-14 describes a soul that has refused to mature in Christ.

The soulish/fleshly manifestations in our lives are just the opposite as the fruits of the Spirit as listed in Galatians the fifth chapter. These cause the spirit and the fleshly nature to be at war with each other. Fleshly/soulish appetites want what they want, and they don't want to give up their desires in favor of the Lordship of Christ and the fruits of the born again spirit. Only as we are transformed by the renewing of our mind, will this willingness enable us to make spiritual and godly choices.

FOR JESUS TO BE LORD OF OUR LIFE, AND FOR US TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT, our spiritual mind and soulish mindset have to come into agreement. Jesus told us that the Spirit of Truth would guide us into all truth, but even as He is trying to bring us out of darkness and into the light – out of deception and into the truth, we will have to overcome resistance to receiving that truth. What will we have to resist in order to take our position in Christ as those who are transformed by the renewal of our mind and as children of God who have received the truth and are walking in obedience to it, as we are led by the Spirit of the Lord.

When the Holy Spirit gives us a revelation of truth, we will make a choice based on who is going to be LORD in our lives. We either choose to believe and walk in the truth or refuse to let the truth take first place in our self-life and walk in our own ways. When a child of God is not walking by faith and in obedience to the truth of God's Word, it is because: We are deceived by the lies that we have received as truth. This deception has resulted in false belief systems, false doctrines, and a pattern of thinking that is prompted by a lack of truth, or a refusal to believe the truth, because we choose to believe what is beneficial to the preserving of our personal desires, doctrines, and self-centered way of interpreting what will preserve our own selfish interests. Another reason a child of God may not be walking in faith and in obedience to God's Word is:

We may know the truth, yet still refuse it, because of a mindset that remains "unrenewed". This can be the case, not because we don't have the understanding that could bring about a renewed mind, but because we do not choose to love the truth and obey it. Why wouldn't a Christian choose truth and obedience to God's Word? This lack of transformation is based on soulish motives that spring from the desire to preserve the SELF LIFE. With this rebellious and stubborn motivation we will resist the renouncing of deceptive and false beliefs, because of having more loyalty to a doctrine contrary to the Word of God, than we do to the TRUTH as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

We have many examples of man's resistance to trusting God and walking in obedience to His instruction in both the Old and New Testament. Those who made those hard choices of refusing to be led by what they thought, felt, heard, saw, and wanted, were the men and women of God whose heart was steadfast in their faith in the Lord, and who walked humbly with their God. **GOD INSTRUCTED HIS PEOPLE: Pro 3:6-7** In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil. Yet it was written in **Isa 53-6** All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to our own way, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. A perfect description of a SOUL not transformed – one not led by God's Spirit.

SPIRITUAL OR SOULISH RESPONSES

If we are led by the Spirit, it will determine our belief systems, the way we think, reason, and come to conclusions. It will also be a guideline for the way we speak, and for our attitudes, actions, deeds, and lifestyle.

If we want to be more Christlike, the blueprint that we follow will have to be the guidelines that are clearly set forth in the Word of God.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

So, for us to be truly led by the Spirit, we will have to know what the Spirit of the Lord inspired the men of God to set forth as our divine guide to living a Christian life. What are our scriptural boundaries and guidelines are the God-breathed Word of God. The Word is our road map in the KINGDOM OF GOD'S DEAR SON.

WHAT WE DO, SAY, AND BELIEVE WILL HAVE TO LINE UP WITH THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS OUR FINAL REFERENCE ON WHAT IS UPRIGHT AND ACCEPTABLE FOR THE CHRISTIAN TO USE AS A CONSTANT STANDARD FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE.

2 Tim 2:15 tells us: “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the WORD of TRUTH.

THIS IS NOT AN OPTION, BUT A COMMAND

Mt 13:11 And He replied unto them, TO YOU IT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO KNOW THE SECRETS AND MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT TO THEM IT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN.

V. 18-19 LISTEN THEN TO THE [meaning of the] PARABLE OF SOWER: WHILE ANYONE IS HEARING THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM (read on through verse 23).

Mt 13:31 Another story by way of comparison: He set forth before them , saying: the kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard see, which a man took and sowed in his field. v.32 Of all the seeds it is the smallest, but when it has grown it is the largest of the garden herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and find shelter in its branches.

v. 33 ...The kingdom of heaven is like leaven (sour dough), which a woman took and covered over in three measures of meal or flour till all of it was leavened. (Are we permeated with the Word of God, so that it is soaked into every part of our being: spirit, soul, and body)?

44. The kingdom of heaven is like something precious buried in a field, which a man found and hid again; then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field. (We see the truth of the kingdom, by revelation of God’s Spirit, and we are willing to give up everything contrary to that, in order to have the truth, grace, light, and power of that revelation operating in every thing that we think, say, want, or do).

45-46 Again the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a dealer in search of fine and precious pearls, who, on finding a single pearl of great price, went and sold all he had and bought it.

MAT 18:3 UNLESS YOU REPENT, (change, turn about) and become like little children [trusting, lowly, loving, forgiving], you can never enter the kingdom of heaven [at all].

Jn 3:3 Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above) he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.

Personally, I believe that we all have our own reasons for not living a consecrated and totally committed life, where Jesus is Lord in every word, deed, attitude of the heart, and in the decisions that govern our personal beliefs, relationships, finances, behavior patterns, political loyalties, and their lifestyle.

1. Passivity and indifference, because the cares of this world and the pleasure and delight and glamour and deceitfulness of riches choke and suffocate the Word and it yields no fruit.
2. We want to retain the control of our lives, and are not willing to give up that control, in order to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, based on the guidelines set forth in the Word of God.
3. We will not make it a priority and a commitment to prayerfully study the Word of God and receive the rightly divided revelation that comes from the Holy Spirit, because:
 - A. We don't want to give up religious traditions and doctrines that conflict with the whole counsel of God.

Sad to admit, but there are many who hold denominational beliefs in such high regard that they put them up as a wall to any new revelation from the Word of God that contradicts their preconceived ideas.

- B.** When God's Word conflicts with a carnal/soulsh lifestyle, they don't want to give up their own personal wants behavior, belief systems, and indulgences.

BASICALLY, THERE IS A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS, BETWEEN A SOULISH/CARNAL CHRISTIAN, AND ONE WHO DESIRES FOR JESUS TO TRULY BE LORD IN EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIVES.

A CHRISTIAN, WHO IS NOT SEEKING TO MAKE JESUS CHRIST LORD IN EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIFE, WILL NOT BE SEEKING TO ORDER THEIR LIVES BY THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD. THEY REALIZE THAT IF THEY UNDERSTAND, BELIEVE, RECEIVE, AND OBEY THE WORD OF GOD, IT WILL BRING ABOUT A DRASTIC CHANGE IN ALL THAT THEY THINK, SAY, DO, AND BELIEVE.

THE WORD WILL BE DETREMENTAL TO THE SOULISH/CARNAL CHRISTIAN, WHO WANTS TO LIVE HIS OWN LIFE, BY HIS OWN RULES, AND IS ONLY INTERESTED IN THE LORD AS A WAY TO ESCAPE HELL.

THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND SHARPER THAN A TWO EDGED SWORD, THAT WILL DIVIDE BETWEEN THE SOUL AND THE SPIRIT AND DISCERN THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER. Heb 4:12

THIS REALLY EXPOSES THE BELIEVER, WHO IS WANTING TO GO TO HEAVEN SOME DAY, BUT HAS NO DESIRE TO DENY SELF, TAKE UP THEIR CROSS DAILY AND BE LED BY THE SPIRIT, AS THEY DENY THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THE WORD OF GOD.

THE WORD IS A SWORD:

DIVIDING: Gk=3311 A separation, dividing asunder, Heb 4:12

2 Tim 2:15 Rightly DIVIDING= 3718: To make a straight cut, to dissect, expound (correctly) the divine message, RIGHTLY DIVIDE.

If you ask the carnal Christian if they want to go to hell, their answer will be an unequivocal NO, but if you ask them, if they want to make Jesus Lord of every area of their life, and use the Word of God as an absolute guideline for every word they speak, every decision they make and every action they take, no matter how painful and sacrificial it is to their flesh and soul, then usually the answer would be, “Well, I’m not too sure that I would go that far. That may be a little fanatical for someone who has to live in the real word.”

IT’S CALLED: SELF PRESERVATION

AS OPPOSED TO:

MT 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also. (Amplified)]

DENY YOURSELF, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW ME. IF YOU LOSE YOUR LIFE YOU WILL FIND IT, AND IF YOU SAVE YOUR (self) LIFE, YOU will LOSE it. How will you lose it? Will you die instantly. No, if that were the case, most Christians would die at a very young age. We lose it to the power of sin, the flesh, the world, and the devil. Seeking to take control, we lose control. Seeking to hold on to our self life, we lose the freedom and joy of abundant life. Now the enemy has invaded the open doors of our soulish fleshly walk, and has exerted his power, his influence, his oppression. He is not there legally, but through the loophole of our soulish decisions, that have opened the door to him.

DENY-Gk= to deny utterly, disown, abstain, deny.

As is: Mt 16:24 & Lu 9:23 deny himself, take up his cross, & follow Me.

Mt 10:39 He that findeth His life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

FINDETH Gk= find, obtain, perceive, see

**LIFE Gk= psuche: the rational & immortal soul, life,
mind, soul, us & you**

LOSE Gk= to destroy, die, lose, mar, die, perish

POINT OF QUALIFICATION: I AM NOT SAYING THAT THE ONLY WAY satan CAN ATTACK US IS, IF WE OPEN THE DOOR. I BELIEVE THAT he CONSISTANTLY ATTACKS THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE INNOCENT. I AM ONLY MAKING A POINT THAT WHEN WE WALK IN THE FLESH AND LIVE BY SOULISH DECISIONS, WE ARE OPENING THE DOOR FOR THE enemy TO ATTACK US.

**CONVERSELY: WHEN WE ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT,
AND RESIST THE enemy, he HAS TO FLEE FROM US.**

**EXAMPLES OF SOULISH OR SPIRITUAL RESPONSES
WHERE THE WORD OF GOD REQUIRES US TO DENY
THE SELF LIFE, IF WE ARE TO OBEY THE WORD OF GOD.**

Jam 1:19 Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

**Pro 23:12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the
words of knowledge.**

**Psa 17:4 ...by the word of my lips, I have kept me from the paths
of the DESTROYER.**

**Eph 4:26 When angry do not sin, do not ever let your wrath (your
exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes
down.**

**Pro 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he
that refraineth his lips is wise.**

Pro 14:17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly:

**Pro 15:3 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir
up anger.**

Pro 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue

Pro 6:2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth

**Pro 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man
aboundeth in transgression.**

**Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth,
but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may
minister grace unto the hearers.**

v.31and evil speaking be put away from you.

v15 But speaking the truth in love may grow up into Him in all things.

Mt 18:15 If your brother wrongs you, go and show him his fault, between you and him privately.v. 16 If he does not listen, take along with you one or two others.....v.17 if he pays no attention to them..... tell it to the church.....

Mt 18:21-22 Then Peter came up to Him and said, Lord, how many time may my brother sin against me and I forgive him and let it to? [as many as] up to seven times? Jesus answered him, I tell you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven.

v. 23 THEREFORE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A HUMAN KING WHO WISHED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH HIS ATTENDANTS. (read through verse 35).

Mt 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who continues to be angry with his brother or harbors malice (enmity of heart) against him shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the court; and whoever speaks contemptuously and insultingly to his brother shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, You cursed fool! [You, empty headed idiot]! shall be liable to and unable to escape the hell (Gehenna) of fire.

AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT WE ARE UNDER THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE, AND NOT UNDER THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. WE WOULD PROBABLY ALL BE UNDER SENTENCE, IF WE HAD TO FULFILL ALL OF THE LAW, OR BE UNDER THE CURSE.

Such as:

Mt 5:39do not resist the evil man [who injures you]; but if anyone strikes you on the right jaw or cheek, turn to him the other also.

v. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Phil 2:3 Let each esteem other better than themselves. v. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Mat 22:37 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ...and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Col 3:5 So kill (deadens, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

Jam 5:16 Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

Phil 4:6 Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by PRAYER AND PETITION (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.

Jn 14:1 DO NOT let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely on God; believe in, and adhere to and trust in and rely also on Me. v.27 Peace I leave with you, MY [own] PEACE I NOW GIVE AND BEQUEATH TO YOU. Not as the world gives do I give to you. DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET THEM BE AFRAID. (Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be FEARFUL and INTIMIDATED and COWARDLY and UNSETTLED.)

V.26 BUT THE COMFORTER (COUNSELOR, HELPER, INTER-CESSOR, ADVOCATE, STRENGTHENER, STANDBY), THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME [IN MY PLACE, TO REPRESENT ME AND ACT ON MY BEHALF], HE WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, AND HE WILL CAUSE YOU TO RECALL (WILL REMIND YOU OF, BRING TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE) EVERYTHING I HAVE TOLD YOU.

I Thes 5:16-18 Be happy [in your faith] and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually (always). Be unceasing in prayer [pray perseveringly]. Thank (God) in everthing [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].

Rom 12:21 Do not let yourself be OVERCOME by evil, but overcome (master) evil with GOOD.

See also: Mat 6:31-34 Rom 4:18 Rom 8:14-39 Phil 4:4 REJOICE
 Mat 6:31 Take no thought what shall we eat, what shall we drink, what shall we wear, v. 32 (for after all of these things do the gentiles seek.) But seek ye first the, Kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. V. 34 take no thought for the morrow.....

Jn 4:24 God is a Spirit (a spiritual being), and those who worship Him, must worship HIM in SPIRIT and in TRUTH.

THIS IS DONE BY FAITH, and we cannot access this position and remain STEADFAST IN IT, EXEPT BY OUR FAITH IN GOD.

FAITH IS BASED ON ITS OBJECT.

HOW MUCH FAITH WE HAVE IN OUR OBJECT OF FAITH IS BASED ON OUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR FAITH OBJECT.

ONCE WE CHOOSE WHO WE WILL HAVE FAITH IN, AND DECIDE WHAT WE ARE GOING TO BELIEVE, WE WILL HAVE TO GUARD THAT FAITH FROM DOUBT AND UNBELIEF.

IF FAITH IS A SPIRITUAL THING, we will have to guard against the spiritual adversary of our faith object. We know that satan hates God, and hated Christ enough to want him to suffer the horrors of scourging and crucifixion. He hates the Word of God, which is the Sword of the Spirit, and he hates all believers who put their faith in the Lord God Almighty and in His Word.

Another thing we will have to guard against is a house divided. Once our “SPIRIT MAN” has chosen whom we will trust and believe, we will have to guard our heart from the doubt and unbelief that can come in via our own soul. If our mind debates whether this is really working, and our feelings are telling us things that are contrary to our faith position, this can be like an adversary from within.

If our faith is resisted by a **soul** that is not transformed, or by the schemes of the devil, our **spirit** will have to rise up and actively resist either our adversary – the devil, or the **soul** that is questioning our faith in the Lord and our trust in the fairness of God, His integrity, and the power of God’s Word.

Our spirit is the core, or the central part of our being.

Jam 2:26 indicates that the SPIRIT is the life giving part of the body.

The **carnal** man is the part of us that is related to the 5 senses. What we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell.

WHAT THE WORD SAYS ABOUT OUR SPIRIT MAN

Jn 1:12 But to as many as did receive and welcome him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name

Jn :16 For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing

Jn 3:6 What is born of [from] the flesh is flesh [of the physical is physical]: and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ...he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come.

Eph 2:10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works, which God predestined (planned beforehand for us.....

Col 2:10 And you are "In Him," made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ, you too are filled with the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and reach full spiritual stature].

And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

2 Pet 1:3-4 For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him, Who called us by and to His own glory and virtue. By means of these, He has bestowed on us His precious and exceeding great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay that is in the world because of covetousness, and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.

SPEAKING OF OUR NEW BIRTH:

Jn 1:13 Who owe their birth neither to bloods, nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse], nor to the will of man [that of a natural father], but to God.

Jam 1:18 And it was of His own [free] will that He gave us birth [as sons] by [His] Word of Truth, so that WE SHOULD BE A KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS OF HIS CREATURE [a sample of what he created to be consecrated to Himself].

Eph 1:4 Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in Love. v.5 For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent].

1 Pet 1:23 You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal, by the ever living and lasting Word of God Amp.

KJV Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.