Discover Yourself in God’s Mirror

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Introduction
Three things man can never know except by divine revelation:
1. Origin of the universe
2. Origin of man
3. Nature of man

I. Triune Man at Creation
A. Consists of three elements: spirit, soul and body (1 Thess. 5:23)

Prayer: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify us completely, and may our spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

B. Bible: mirror of our inward man (James 1:21–25)
C. Only God’s Word discerns between spirit and soul (Heb. 4:12)
D. Creation of man (Gen. 2:7)
1. Hebrew word yatsar means formed—molded in clay (not dry dust)
2. God stooped and breathed life into the clay—he became a living soul—“a son of God” (Luke 3:38)
3. Potential tension between Spirit from above and dust below
4. Hebrew word for Spirit is ruach. Spirit gives life—self-existent (1 Cor. 15:45)
5. Hebrew word for soul is nefesh. Soul receives life—dependent

II. Fall Of Man—Desire To Be Independent Of God (Gen. 3:1–7)
A. Devil causes
1. Doubt
2. Disbelief
3. Disobedience
B. Three temptations
1. Lust of the flesh (good for food)
2. Lust of the eyes (nice to look at)
3. Pride of life (makes one wise—as clever as God)
C. Results of sin
1. Spirit—dead (Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1; 4:18)
2. Soul—a lost rebel (Eph. 2:2–3)
3. Body—exposed to corruption and death (Eph. 4:22)

III. God Still Longs After Man
   A. “He jealously desires the spirit He has made to dwell in us” (James 4:5 NASB)
   B. “Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10)
   C. “To gather together God’s scattered children” (John 11:51–52)
   D. Jesus died as the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)
   E. Jesus rose as the second man—head of a new race (1 Cor. 15:47)
   F. Made up of those who are begotten again (1 Pet. 1:3)

IV. The New Creation
   A. A creative act of God (2 Cor. 5:17)
   B. The resurrected Christ—the inbreathed Spirit (John 20:20–22)
   C. The two requirements for New Testament salvation (Rom. 10:9)
      1. Confess with your mouth
      2. Believe with your heart
   D. Begotten again (1 Pet. 1:3)
      1. By the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23)
      2. By the Spirit of God (John 3:6–8 [compare Ps. 33:6])
   E. Results
      1. Incorruptible life (John 3:9)
      2. Overcoming life (1 John 5:4)

Are You Spiritual Or Soulish?

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Introduction

Recap: From Creation to Re-Creation
   A. God is triune: Father, Son, Spirit
   B. God made man in His own image—triune: body, soul, spirit
   C. Must experience rebirth by Holy Spirit: Life we receive is divine, eternal, incorruptible, undefeatable, indestructible

V. God’s Word “Divides” The Three Elements (Heb. 4:12)
   A. Results of salvation/new birth
      1. Imparts new life to spirit
      2. Restores spirit’s contact with God
      3. Releases soul from Satan’s control
      4. Restores God’s program of relationships:
         God’s Spirit → man’s spirit → soul → body
   B. Functions of three elements
      1. Spirit: God-conscious
         a. Union/community with God (1 Cor. 6:16–17)
         b. Reproduces God’s attitudes and responses (practical)
            (1) Jesus—sighed, rejoiced and groaned in His spirit
            (2) Paul—purposed, was bound, served in his spirit
      2. Soul: self-conscious (ego/“I”)
         a. Will: I want, decisions made here
         b. Intellect: I think, reason/imagine
c. Emotion: *I feel*

3. Body: world-conscious (through the five senses)
   a. Acts out soul’s decisions
   b. Spirit works through soul to activate body (Ps. 103:1–2; Heb. 10:5, 7) (Except when speaking in tongues)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities Compared:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John 4:23–24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke 1:46–47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eph. 1:17</td>
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<td>Ps. 43:4</td>
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<td>Matt. 16:24–25</td>
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VI. Relationship Between Spirit And Soul
   A. If soul returns to rebellion, a person becomes “soulish”—no longer “spiritual”
   B. Present body “soulish”—resurrection body “spiritual” (1 Cor. 15:44)
   C. Two types of believer (1 Cor. 2:11–16): soulish vs. spiritual
   E. Soulish people who cause division (Jude 16–19)
   F. Need for discernment—test things that differ (Phil. 1:9–10)
   G. Exercise senses to distinguish good from evil (Heb. 5:12–14)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spiritual</th>
<th>Soulish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discernment</td>
<td>Criticism</td>
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<td>Conviction</td>
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<td>Compassion</td>
<td>Sympathy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revelation</td>
<td>Manipulation</td>
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H. Biblical test: Fruit (Matt. 7:15–20)

Why You Have A Body

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VII. How To Be Spiritual, Not Soulish
   A. Make Jesus head of every area—be dependent, initiate nothing—leave that with God (Eph. 1:22)
   B. Live by God’s Word—not by wishes, ideas, feelings (Matt. 4:4)
   C. Cultivate humility—learn to serve (Gal. 5:13; 1 Pet. 3:4; 5:5–6)

VIII. Your Body And God’s Purposes
   A. Made from materials prepared in the earth: minerals (Ps. 139:13–16; Job 10:8; 33:4)
   B. Primary purpose: to dwell with man (Ex. 29:45; Lev. 26:11–12; Rev. 21:2–3)
   C. But not in man-made temples (Acts 7:48–50)
   D. “Stones” are redeemed believers (1 Pet. 2:4–5)
   E. The temple
      1. The collective church (1 Cor. 3:16–17)
      2. The individual body of each believer (1 Cor. 6:19–20)
Specifically: the belly = “gut” (John 7:38–39)
1. Greek: 
2. “Bowels” = Seat of our deepest responses
3. “Moved with compassion”: 12 times of Jesus

IX. God’s Provision For Your Body
A. The indwelling Spirit (Rom. 8:11; Eph. 1:19–20)
B. God’s Word (Ps. 107:19–20; Prov. 4:20–22)
C. Continuing renewal from within (2 Cor. 4:10–12)

X. Your Responsibilities
A. Offer your body (Rom. 12:1–2)
B. Individually receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14–17)
C. Present your members (Rom. 6:12–13); especially the tongue (James 3:8)
D. Keep the temple holy (1 Thess. 4:3–8; 1 Cor. 6:13, 18)
E. Maintain the temple—compare your car, home, garden, clothes

The Climax Of Life’s Destiny
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XI. The End Of The Christian Life
A. Not heaven
B. Spirit, soul and body to be reunited in a totally new body
1. The climax: redemption of the body (Phil. 3:8–14). Resurrection out of the dead
2. The first resurrection (Rev. 20:25–26)
C. Those alive will follow those who “sleep” (1 Thess. 4:15–18)
D. Christ will return (John 14:3; Acts 1:9–11)
1. With a shout (John 5:28–29)
2. Proclamation of an archangel
3. The trumpet (1 Cor. 15:51–52)
E. “Rapture”—Greek: harpazo; Latin: rapio
1. Parable of the Sower—“snatches away” (Matt. 13:19)
2. Parable of the Good Shepherd—“catches them” (John 10:12)
3. Philip, after baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch—“caught . . . away” (Acts 8:39)
   a. David du Plessis
   b. Missionary couple
4. Man “caught up” to the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2–4)
5. Believers—“pulling them out” (Jude 23)
6. “Caught up” to His throne (Rev. 12:5)
F. What kind of body (1 Cor. 15:42–44; 50–54)
1. Corruptible = Incorruptible
2. Dishonor = Glory
3. Weakness = Power
4. Natural/soulish = Spiritual
5. Mortal = Immortal
G. Citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20–21)
   Body of humiliation meanwhile (1 John 3:2)
H. Eagerly waiting for the coming of the Lord (1 Cor. 1:7–8; Titus 2:11–13; 2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 9:27–28)
1. Main motive for holy living
2. No further away than your death

1 Thess. 5:23–24

I. Body “preserved blameless”
   1. Body sanctified by the altar on which you have laid it
   2. Yield every member to the Lord for His service

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