

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE INNER MAN

RLJ-2073

JOHN S. TORELL

JUNE 28, 2026

PART 2: THE SPIRIT-LED LIFE

THE SPIRIT OF MAN

Mankind is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins before salvation. People naturally follow the Luciferian influence and the selfish desires of the soul. Because of this, all people are by nature under God's wrath.

The good news is that God is rich in mercy and love. He chose to intervene when humanity was in the gutter and sent the Messiah. Salvation is by grace, not human merit.

Christians have been raised up from the mire and invited to sit with Jesus. This means the born-again believer has a new spiritual position before God the Father. We are no longer dead in sin, condemned, and under wrath. We are alive, accepted, and joined to Christ.

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

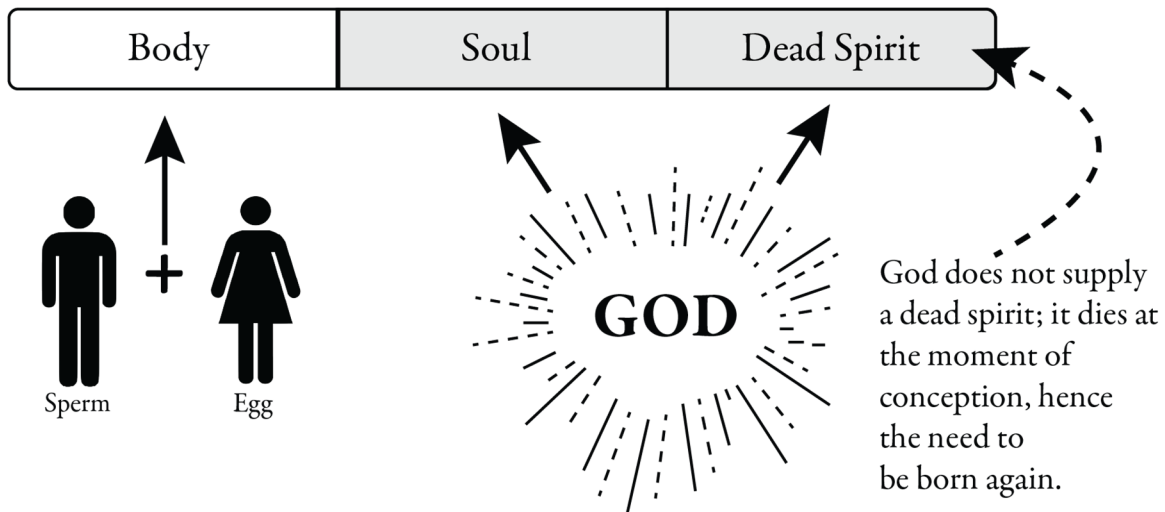
But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:1-6)

An unsaved person – someone who has not been born again – functions with a soul and a physical body, but remains spiritually dead toward God. From the viewpoint of the secular world, such a person can live a normal earthly life: working, earning a living, forming relationships, and participating in the ordinary activities of human existence.

The good news is that the Holy Spirit can convict the soul of sin and reveal the need for salvation. However, as long as the spirit remains dead, the person cannot truly commune with God or understand spiritual matters. A human being who has only a physical body, a soul, and a dead spirit is therefore severely limited in spiritual things and becomes an easy target for the Kingdom of Satan.



But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)



THE SINFUL SOUL

The soul is the seat of the sinful nature. Even after a person has repented of his sins and been born again, the soul still bears the sinful nature inherited from Adam and Eve. Jesus taught that a man is not defiled by what enters his body, but by what comes out of his heart, revealing the corruption that remains within the soul.

“And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.” (Matthew 15:16-20)

Throughout the Bible, the heart of a person is often used to describe the inner man – the soul. Today we understand that the physical heart is a muscular pump that circulates blood throughout the body. It is a biological mechanism made of muscle, arteries, and valves, not the seat of a person’s identity.

The idea that the physical heart contains the soul was disproven in 1967, when Dr. Christiaan Barnard led a surgical team in South Africa in performing the first human heart transplant. The patient’s personality did not change after receiving another person’s heart; he remained the same man.

The sinful nature corrupts the soul, and if it is not restrained, it will destroy a person from within. Jesus pointed back to this condition when He spoke of the days before Noah's flood, when the thoughts and desires of mankind had become continually evil.

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Genesis 6:5)

The prophet Jeremiah spoke about it:

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

THE BORN AGAIN SPIRIT

King Solomon was given supernatural wisdom to understand the mysteries of creation.

“And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about. And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.” (1 Kings 4:29-32)

Solomon said that the spirit of man is the divine candle. This means God has placed within man a spirit that acts like a lamp, searching the hidden depths of his inner being and exposing his thoughts, motives, desires, and moral condition.

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

Paul teaches that the spirit of man knows the inward things of man, just as the Spirit of God knows the deep things of God. The natural man cannot properly discern the things of God because they must be revealed by the Holy Spirit. The born again believer – having received the Spirit of God – is able to understand spiritual truth through the mind of Christ.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:9-16)

YIELDING THE SOUL TO THE SPIRIT

The spirit is the counterpart to the soul. The soul is connected to earthly life and cannot commune with God on its own, but the spirit was designed to have access to God and to receive direction, conviction, and revelation from Him.

- ❖ The physical body is a vehicle.
- ❖ The soul is the real human being.
- ❖ The spirit is the entity that communicates with God.

The soul directs the physical body through the mind, will, emotions, and desires. However, the born-again believer is not called to let the soul rule independently, nor to live after the flesh. The Holy Spirit bears witness with the believer's spirit and empowers him to bring the soul and body under God's authority. My purpose is therefore to yield to the Holy Spirit, so that my spirit, soul, and body are brought into obedience to Christ.

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:11-16)

I activate the born-again spirit in me by initiating prayer with my soul, which is the real me. When I pray with my soul, the born-again spirit automatically takes over and transfers my requests to God. The more I read the Bible and pray, the stronger my spirit becomes.

I am saved by grace and washed in the blood of Christ, but I still possess free will, which operates through my soul. Every day I must make decisions: to get out of bed, get dressed, eat, go to work, and carry out the responsibilities of life. In the same way, I must choose to pray and read the Bible. If I decide not to pray, the Holy Spirit will not force me, and neither will my spirit. I must willingly yield myself to God.

Salvation is the gift of God. Through Christ, my spirit is made alive, my soul is cleansed from sin, and my body is set apart for the Lord. However, I must still choose each day to walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

INWARD STRUGGLE

There is a constant struggle between the soul and the born-again spirit. It is like a tug of war within the believer: one side desires to do the will of God, while the other resists and pulls toward the flesh.

When I am torn inside, I remind myself: "I do not have to sin. I can choose not to sin." I must yield to the Holy Spirit and allow my born-again spirit to govern my soul, so that I choose obedience and do the will of God.

"For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but

how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 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. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

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. (Romans 7:11-25)

The apostle Paul was transparent about the Christian life: it is not an easy victory. It is a battle and a continual struggle, as the Devil and his minions fight against us day and night, seeking to discredit us and drive us out of the fight.

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

Jesus knew that life would be difficult for the new believers in Christ. He was sending them into an existing and fierce battle against Lucifer, fallen angels, and evil spirits.

I know this from experience. After I rededicated my life to Christ in 1966, I was able to witness, teach Sunday School classes, share the Gospel, work on the church building, and attend church every time the doors were open.

However, it was not until about four years later that I was introduced to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That experience transformed my Christian life and filled it with power. It was as though my spirit had been empowered with new strength. Walking in the Spirit became easier, and I was better able to resist the pull of the flesh.

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (Acts 1:4-5)

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

All you need is a willing soul. Ask God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit and receive what He has promised to give.

“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10)

Remember, it’s not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?