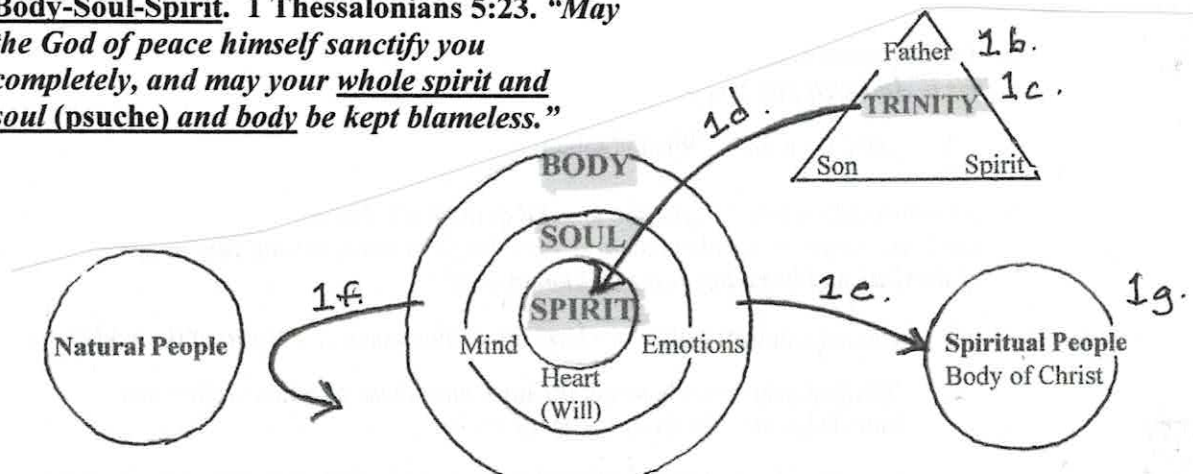


Life of the Spirit; Life of the Soul (outline)

1. 1 Corinthians 2:<sup>6,7,9,10</sup>. "Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom ...<sup>7</sup> a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ...<sup>9</sup> But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him' ...<sup>10</sup> These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit."

2. Primer on the Spirit and the Soul. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

a. **Body-Soul-Spirit.** 1 Thessalonians 5:23. "May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul (psuche) and body be kept blameless."



- i. *Body* = the physical you; the "you" the world sees.
- ii. *Soul* = the "psychic" you (reason, emotions, will); the "you" with whom the world interacts.
- iii. *Spirit* = your life going somewhere, either driven there by the "spirit of the world" or the "spirit of Christ".

b. 1 Corinthians 2:<sup>10-11</sup>. "... the Spirit searches (diligently examines) everything, even the depths (bathos) of God. <sup>11</sup>For no one comprehends the thoughts (the things) of God except the Spirit of God."

c. 1 Corinthians 2:<sup>12</sup>. "We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand (see, perceive) the things freely (graciously) given us by God."

d. 1 Corinthians 2:<sup>13</sup>. "And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual."

e. 1 Corinthians 2:<sup>14</sup>. "The natural (soulish) person does not accept (welcome, take hold of) the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned (examined)."

- i. Deuteronomy 29:<sup>4</sup>. "... to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear."

- f. 1 Corinthians 2:16. *“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct (join together, knit together) him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”*

## 2. Application of Soul and Spirit, 1 Corinthians 3.

- a. 1 Corinthians 3:1. *“But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants (simple minded, immature) in Christ.”*

- i. **Lost.** *“Natural (soulish) person”*: not in union with Christ; without the life of Christ within; filled with the spirit of the world; drawing one’s identity and power from the soul; religious but natural; and headed to destruction.
- ii. **Saved.** *“Spiritual person”*: in union with Christ; alive in Christ; one whose life is Christ; whose soul is being taken captive by the Spirit; daily being changed into the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18); headed to the fullness of eternal life.
  - **The “spiritual person”, regardless of her or his level of spiritual maturity, has confidence** from God’s promises found in these verses and in many other places: Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 12:2.
  - **... But the “spiritual man” is always maturing.** Hebrews 5:12-14
  - **Mature:** the one *“skilled in the word”*, whose *“powers of discernment are trained”*, and in which the crucifixion penetrates the soul and body.
  - **“Of the flesh”** = *“infants in Christ”* = *“behaving only in a human way”*: the one in which the soul has too much control. See 1 Cor 13:11.

- b. 1 Corinthians 3:2. *“I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready ...”*

- i. What would be considered *“milk”*? What would be considered *“solid food”*?

- c. 1 Corinthians 3:3. *“... for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?”*

- i. The Corinthians are described as, *“Sanctified in Christ Jesus ... God’s temple and God’s spirit dwells in you ... Washed ... justified ... Baptized into one Body ... Now you are the Body of Christ ...”* 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 6:11; 13:13, 27.
- ii. Yet, in many ways, are *“still of the flesh”*, which is characterized here by:
  - *“jealousy”* = zeal
  - *“strife”* = readiness to quarrel, affection for dispute

- d. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7,9 *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth ... <sup>9</sup> For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s (tilled) field, God’s building.”*