

The "5 Truths" of the Gospel

Truth #1: Already Forgiven – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

Truth #2: Made Clean – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

Truth #3: Made Righteous – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

Truth #4: In Union – you are "in Christ" because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

Truth #5: By Faith – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

The "5 Keys" to Understanding the New Testament

Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God's spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Key #2: Proper Context - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

Key #3: Spiritual Beings - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a "born again" spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

Key #5: Hebrew Law - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

2 Corinthians 5:2 For indeed in this house {mortal body} we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

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2 Corinthians 5:4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

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1 Corinthians 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam {Jesus} became a life-giving spirit.

True Gospel Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 11222
Spring, TX 77391-1222

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www.TrueGospelOfJesusChrist.org

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True Tracts

The Difference Between Soul and Spirit

Do you know the difference between your soul and your spirit? This is a very important truth but many Christians are confused about the difference.

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Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart

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2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

What is the Soul?

Note: The term "soul" is used here to mean your human thoughts and emotions. As with some other terms in the Bible, such as "salvation" and "heart," the word "soul" is used in different ways by different writers. The popular definition of "mind, will and emotions" or "personality" is how the term is meant to be understood.

Teaching about the soul and the spirit has caused much confusion in the Christian world. Some say that the soul and the spirit are the same thing; others say they are different. The Apostle Paul makes a clear distinction between the two; understanding what Paul teaches will greatly enhance your understanding of many important Biblical truths.

As Paul teaches it, your spirit resides in the spiritual realm; it is the inner part of you that God redeemed when He "saved" you. Your soul, on the other hand, lives in the mortal, or physical, realm. Your mortal body and human soul have not yet been redeemed; that will happen in the future.

Your spirit is the real you, the essence of who you are. Your body is the *physical* expression of your humanity and your human soul is the *non-physical* expression of your humanity. Your soul and body are one, and both are distinct from your spirit.

Where Do the Spirit and Soul Go After Death?

When you trusted Christ as Savior, God saved you by taking removing your old sinful spirit and replacing it with a brand new, clean heart. Then, the Holy Spirit came to live in you to make you literally righteous by His indwelling presence.

Your mortal body and human soul were not redeemed at the same time your new spirit was born again. Your mortal body is still dead because of sin.

Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Your physical body produces your soul as part of your normal physiology. Your thoughts are produced by your brain through electrical and chemical processes. Your "human" emotions are produced by various neurochemicals inside your brain.

When you die, your spirit goes to be with the Lord because it has already been made righteous. Your body goes to the grave because it has not yet been redeemed; the human, physical part of you still waits for a future redemption (Romans 8:23). Many think the human soul goes to be with the Lord; it does not because it is not yet righteous. Only if ever one of your thoughts and emotions were always perfectly righteous would your soul go to the Lord. It is part of your mortal flesh, not your redeemed spirit.

The Importance of Understand This Truth

Understanding the distinction between "soul" and "spirit" will allow you to better understand several critical truths:

1. You are eternally secure because the Holy Spirit lives in your new, clean spirit. You are righteous because He is righteous.
1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? [17] ... for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.
2. You can also understand why you still sin, but also know that any sin in your life comes from your mortal flesh, *not* your born again spirit.
1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
3. Thus, living a righteous life pleasing to God cannot come from your mortal flesh because it is still dead because of sin. Rather, Christ lives in your born again spirit and He lives His righteous life through you; you follow in faith.
Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and 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,