

## NLI School of Pneumatology Class 9: Distinguishing spirit and soul #1

"The pneuma is, we admit, very closely joined to the psuche; but so is the psuche to the animal (physical) frame. If we can distinguish between soul and body, as all psychologists who are not materialists do; are we not bound equally to distinguish between soul and spirit?"

Oswald Chambers:

"Remember, the whole meaning of the soul is to express the spirit, and the struggle of the spirit is to get itself expressed in the soul." (Oswald Chambers, Biblical Psychology, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 1995)

Watchman Nee expressed the doctrine of trichotomy in a methodical, extensive way in his three volume The Spiritual Man. Speaking of the importance of identifying the spirit, he wrote:

"It is imperative that believers recognize a spirit exists within them, something extra to thought, knowledge, and imagination of the mind, something beyond affection, sensation and pleasure of the emotion, something additional to desire, decision and action of the will. This component is far more profound than these faculties. God's people not only must know that they possess a spirit; they also must understand how this organ operates--its sensitivity, its work, its power, its laws. Only in this way can they walk according to their spirit and not the soul or body of their flesh."

Nee went on to identify and elaborate on three major faculties of man's spirit--that of intuition, conscience, and communion.

The Scofield Reference Bible defined the human soul as the "seat of the affections , desires , and so of the emotions , and of the active will, the self."

"Soul, or self-consciousness as the union point between spirit and body, was created free to choose to which of these two opposite poles [the flesh or the spirit] it would be attracted ..."

Jesse Penn-Lewis said of the distinction of soul and spirit:

"We see that all these writers practically define the "soul" as the seat of the personality, consisting of the will and the intellect or mind; a personal entity standing between the "spirit" and the "body"--open to the outer world of

nature and sense; the soul having power of choice as to which world shall dominate the entire man."

Merismos: divide asunder from Heb. 4:12, Strong's #3311

Of the psuche and the pneumatos.

### **Reviewing Genesis 1:26&27:**

Going back to Genesis we find the first revelation of what man is:

"And God said, Let us make mankind in our image, after our likeness....and let them have dominion.....

And so God created mankind in His image, male and female created He them and gave them dominion." Genesis 1:26 & 27.

Then God said, "Let us make a man -someone like ourselves. TLB

When the phrase "in His image" are read, because people are more aware of their physical body, they think: "God made my physical appearance like His appearance", meaning arms, legs, eyes, etc.

#### Image & Likeness

Image: OT: Strong's #6754 (spirit)  
tselem (tseh'-lem); from an unused root meaning to shade; a phantom, i.e. (figuratively) illusion, resemblance; hence, a representative figure

Likeness: OT: Strong's #1823 (body)  
demuwth (dem-ooth'); from OT:1819; resemblance; concretely, model, shape

From these two definitions, image is seen to refer to 'essential nature'.....God's essential nature for our purposes here is that He is a spirit....that is His 'essence.

The second definition refers to God's shape, or appearance. That God made us like Himself in appearance also: hands, feet, eyes, etc.

When Jesus came, He began to focus attention on the spirit:

Jesus stated that God is a spirit: John 4:24.

If we correlate the two scriptures: Gen. 1:26 & 27 with John 4:24: it is revealed that God made mankind a spirit.

Stating it again like a mathematical equation:

- Jesus said God is a spirit.
- God made us in His image.
- So.....by logical conclusion based on the revelation of Jesus, we are a spirit.

Because we are studying pneumatology: the things pertaining to spirit beings.....it is important to retrain your thinking about this verse to think "spirit" when you read Genesis 1:26:

"God made me in His image & likeness".

"God is a spirit."

"He made me a spirit."

I am a spirit being like God."

"My true essence, makeup, reality, the real ME, is a spirit."