
Words of Truth

You're Not A Body With A Soul

By: Brian A. Yeager

What do you look like? Most people would answer that question with height, weight, hair color, eye color, build description, etc. The world will tell you that the person you are is what you see in the flesh. It is why people visit cemeteries when their loved ones have died. They go to the cemetery to visit a person for they think that the body is the life of man. This is wrong. You are not a body with a soul; you are a soul with a body.

When you examine the word of God, it is evident that you are a spirit inhabiting a human body. Notice: *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul... And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"* (Genesis 2:7, I Corinthians 15:45, and James 2:26).

Consider these two examples as further material to study regarding you being a spirit in the flesh instead of the other way around: *"And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth... Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men"* (I Kings 17:17-23 and Philippians 2:4-7).

When you look in the mirror you cannot see you. When you look in the mirror you see the body that you live in. That body that you live in is growing older day by day (most of us painfully realize this). That body you see in the mirror is decaying daily (II Corinthians 4:16). God is a spirit (John 4:24). We are made in His image (Genesis 1:27). When the life you live in the flesh is over (Hebrews 9:27), your soul will continue to live (Ecclesiastes 12:7; cf. Luke 16:19-31). The only thing that will change that is if Christ comes first. In that case, your flesh will still perish and you will take on a new,

spiritual form (I Corinthians 15:35-54). It is bad enough when these truths are not realized. However, ignorance on these things leads to another big problem.

When You Focus On The Flesh You'll Live According To The Flesh

We often talk about how we should not be carnally minded (Romans 8:4-8 and Galatians 5:16-26). We know that we are to think differently as Christians in comparison to those of the world (Romans 12:1-2 and I Peter 4:1-5). We are not to live to the satisfying of the flesh. Notice: *"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... Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof... Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul"* (Romans 8:13, Romans 13:13-14, and I Peter 2:11).

When you focus on the outward man you are surely going to miss the needs of the inward man. People spend time weighing themselves on scales, eating healthy foods, exercise, medical exams, vitamins, medications, etc. Why don't those same people spend a fraction of that time caring for their souls? I am not at all saying we should not care for our bodies. The problem is that most care only for their bodies and not at all or very little for their souls. We need to care for both (I Corinthians 6:20). Bodily exercise only profits a little, whereas godliness is profitable unto all things (I Timothy 4:8). Just as caring for the physical body requires examination, prevention, correction, and feeding; your soul needs the same things (II Corinthians 13:5, I Corinthians 9:24-27, Lamentations 3:40, and Matthew 4:4).

When you think of who you are and physical things are the first thoughts you have, you are going to find that you are going to care more about your flesh than your soul. God expects us to put our spiritual lives ahead of our physical needs (Matthew 6:33, John 6:26-27, and Colossians 3:1-4). To come to Christ we each had to decide to deny ourselves (Matthew 16:24-27). When we are more concerned about our physical lives above our spiritual lives we have either forgotten this point or never really understood it to begin with.

Notice the following text as a prime example of one who cared more about carnal things than his soul: *"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God"* (Luke 12:16-21).

Conclusion

You are a living soul. You have been given a fleshly body. We have to remember that we are created beings (Psalms 100:3). Our purpose in this life is not to fulfill our own desires (Romans 14:7-9 and II Corinthians 5:15). Therefore, don't live as though you are a body with a soul, but rather a soul with a body.