



Word to the World
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Module : Healing the Wounded Soul

Session 1 : The Bruised Soul

Focus : The Word and Spirit Heals the Mind, Emotions and Will

This series of teachings is designed to bring healing to deep wounds you may carry within your soul. There are many 'bruises' satan has successfully inflicted upon the soul of many people. God is intent on completely healing any residue hurt within the soul so that the soul, could pursue the path of renewal and regeneration faster and not be unnecessarily hindered in this pursuit.

I encourage the reader to study my study series, 'The Spiritual Man' and 'The Prosperity of the Soul' in conjunction with this series. It will provide you with a good basis to understand this present series. The diagrams provided in Addendum 2 at the end of this study were illustrations used in these series. These are provided here to assist in better understanding the placement and proper functioning of our spirit, soul and body. In brief, let me attempt to succinctly capture some of the most essential aspects from those series' that bear relevance for our present study.

Man is spirit, soul and body. Each part is equally important. It was always God's intent that the spirit of man leads and guides his soul to live effectively in and through his body. The soul is to take direction and leadership from the spirit. The spirit is native to the eternal realm of spirit and is that dimension within man that grants him the capacity to relate to God, who is spirit. The spirit of man is to receive the WORD of God and then in a sense transfer or impress these WORDS of GOD on the soul. The soul is native to the earth, and is that part of him that enables him, through the five senses in his body, to intelligibly engage the natural world. Both the spirit and soul have a mind, emotions and will. With the mind we think; with the emotions we feel and with will we make decisions/choices. How we think, feel and make decisions must all flow out from the guidance and direction that the WORD OF GOD provides in and through our spirit. Our spirit configures the soul with the same directives, and the soul can then effectively function in life through the body.

The THOUGHTS of man, the EMOTIONS of man and the DECISIONS of man are areas which we must recover and bring under the rulership of Christ. Salvation is past, present and future. At one's initial salvation experience, when a decision is made to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, one's spirit becomes renewed and re-connected to the Spirit of God, who witnesses with your spirit that you are a son of God. A rebirth takes place in one's spirit and you become a new creation in Christ. Whilst being saved in one's spirit, one's spirit also must still grow progressively into maturity in Christ and must be protected against contamination and defilement. When we say we ARE saved, we are referencing the fact that our spirit man has been reconnected to God. However, in the area of our soul, we are BEING SAVED. The soul at the initial salvation experience too begins its own journey in salvation and needs to be progressively renewed day by day throughout one's life. This takes place by the deliberate submission in/of one's THOUGHTS or mind to the principles of God's Word that filters through one's spirit. This is how progressive transformation and formation into the image of Christ takes place in your life (Romans 12:1,2). Without the saturation of the mind of your soul in the principles of God's Word, your thoughts (which basically dictate your character, the course and direction of your life) will negatively configure your emotions and also potentially lead to making inaccurate decisions.

The body WILL BE SAVED - will experience total freedom from sickness and physical death when the Lord returns. We refer to this as immortality – something for which we press into and groan for.

We have to be WHOLE in the area of our spirit and soul.

1 Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word ‘complete’ means ‘complete in all its parts; in no part wanting or unsound, entire, whole.’ To get our entire spirit, soul and body ‘complete’ demands responsibility on our part. The previous verse says:

1 Thess. 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.

To attain to a whole and healthy soul demands an active participation on your part.

But also the verse following 1 Thess. 5:23 is very important because it sets forth **God’s part and His determination to fulfill it.**

1 Thess. 5:24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The faithfulness of God can be depended upon. If God promised it, He is faithful to do. But just because He is faithful does not mean you and I must act irresponsibly.

Jesus, the Son of God, walked as a man on the earth in order to show us, sons of men, how to live as sons of God. As a man, He modeled what it is like to live with a whole soul, free from hurt or bitterness. Freedom from a wounded soul will require that you enter into full partnership and fellowship with Christ Jesus, the Son.

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

Fellowship implies deep partnership and a sharing of being. The Greek term, ‘KOINONIA’, means ‘association, community, communion, joint participation, intimacy.’ The faithfulness of God in this verse is framed in reference to HIM affording us the privilege of sharing fully in the Divine nature of His Son, as a joint-heir with Him of all that God the Father has and is. He overcame all attempts of satan to injure Him within His soul. If He overcame – so can we.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE MIND

The domain of the soul - specifically the mind is where much of so-called 'spiritual warfare' takes place.

2 Cor. 10:3-6

| NASB | KJV |
|---|--|
| 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, | 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: |
| 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. | 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) |
| 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, | 5 Casting down imaginings , and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; |
| 6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete | 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|---|--|
| Fortresses / Strongholds | = | ochuroma | = | An argument; an opposing bulwark of error or vice |
| Speculations / Imaginations | = | logismos | = | A computation, reasoning, act of computing; a thought, cogitation; a conception, device, imagination |
| Lofty Thing / High Thing | = | hypsoma | = | Elevated place or thing; altitude, a barrier; a towering of self-conceit, presumption |
| Thought | = | noema | = | A perception; a conception of the mind, thought, purpose, device; the intellect |

Thought patterns are formed within our minds, which become so entrenched, they develop into a mentality or mindset that is not easily altered. Negative experiences of one kind or another usually influence our worldview or outlook regarding various things, circumstances, organisations or people. The influenced mindset need not necessarily be true, but to the affected person it is deemed as true and they begin to see recurrent circumstances, similar organisations or people in the light of their previously negative experience. The established negative mindset becomes the perception or filter through which the person sees and processes all things. Thus they tend to colour and taint their entire world because everything is seen through the spectacles of prior hurt/disappointment. Only GOD's WORD presented in power and purity can change their mentality. May I encourage you that as God's principles designed for your healing are presented to you, that you bow in submission and obedience to them, and not disregard them in your mind in preference for your own opinion on the matter. There will be a war within your mind, but if the wholeness of your soul is a priority, then allow room within yourself for God's Word to renovate your thinking over the matter which brought hurt to your soul.

WHAT IS HEALED FIRST – THE MIND OR THE EMOTIONS?

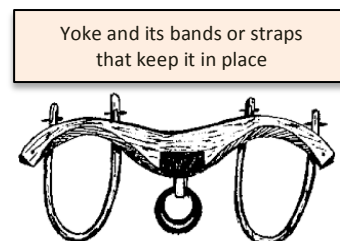
There is no fixed pattern for this. It could be either way. As a man thinks, so is he (Prov. 23:7). Your external life is a reflection of your inward thought life. Hence we could conclude that if you change your thinking you are able to condition your feelings. Yet at other times, emotional hurt can be so strong, that it actually prevents correct thinking. Thus to bring the mind to accuracy, the deep seated hurt in the emotions must first be healed.

The mind of a person usually conditions the emotions, which in turn has a predominant influence in decision-making (the will). A healthy emotional state is necessary to make good decisions, e.g. strategic decisions in a moment of anger or hatred can be disastrous. Generally, one should make decisions on principle, and not so much on feeling (emotions). To alter the emotions and the will, you have to change the mind. To change the mind you have to dislodge or break an inaccurate thought pattern. This is done by the acceptance of God's Word / God's Truth into the mind. Concepts like 'imagination' / 'speculations' and 'thoughts' all are mind-processes. These must be brought to the obedience of Christ.

Isaiah 58:6 seems to support the healing of the emotions as prerequisite to the positive conditioning of the mind.

Isaiah 58:6 "Is this not the fast which **I choose**, ... To **undo** the **bands of the yoke**, And to let the **oppressed go free** And **break** every yoke?"

The KJV of the Bible phrases 'undo bands of the yoke' as 'undo heavy burdens'. The bands of the yoke are the leather straps, which fastened the yoke onto the neck of the oxen as they ploughed. Note the order of things: (1) Untie the bands/straps of the yoke (2) Let the oppressed go free (3) Break the yoke so that it cannot be used again in the future. This verse depicts aspects of the soul:



- | | |
|--|----------------|
| - Bands of the Yoke = A reference to Emotional Hurt | - The Emotions |
| - Oppressed go free = A reference to Mental Trauma | - The Mind |
| - Break every Yoke = A Reference to Control, Bondage or Manipulation in one's Will | - The Will |

The **yoke cannot be broken** until its **bands that hold it in place are untied**. Emotional healing is usually prerequisite to accurately configuring one's mind to God's view on a matter and then engaging the will to make accurate decisions.

GOD'S WORD HEALS THE SOUL

Seeking wholeness in the soul without a spirit saturated in God's Word is futile or at best will be short-lived. There are many courses available secularly which are intended to help people overcome a wounded soul. These have their place and have relative success. The entire domain of psychology is a discipline devoted to facilitating wholeness and general well-being of people emotionally and mentally. I am not in any way decrying the need for this, but there is also a spiritual dynamic to wholeness that cannot be fabricated from a human psychological perspective. The ingredient of God's Word and God's Spirit in the process of total health in the soul cannot be over-estimated. What we are after is long term and enduring healing in the soul.

Momentary relief will not suffice. To maintain health in the soul demands that PRINCIPLES are installed into the fabric of the soul that will ensure its sustained wholeness.

Here below is an excerpt from my series, 'The Prosperity of Soul – Session 1' which I believe is pertinent for your understanding and desire in establishing firm principles in your life to sustain a healthy and whole soul:

THE EFFECTS OF GOD'S WORD ON THE SOUL

❖ God's Word Separates Spirit and Soul, Judges Thoughts and Intentions

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.

Note here that God's Word is able to separate the spirit from the soul and the body (joints and marrow). There are five descriptors of the powerful effects of God's Word in this verse, viz., - Living - Active - Sharper - Piercing - Able to judge.

The Word 'pressed' into one's spirit is 'impressed' upon the soul (Acts 18:5; Deut. 11:18). The light of God's Word illumines the spirit, which then casts this light upon the soul, unveiling areas that need repentance, adjustment or renovation. (Proverbs 20:27; Psalm 18:28). In this sense, God's Word divides the spirit and soul, making you aware of areas in the soul that need change and upgrade. The Word then also judges, appraises and weighs our thoughts and intentions in our spirit and soul.

❖ God's Word Restores the Soul

Psalm 19:7a The **law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.** [NASB]

Psalm 19:7a The **law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.** [KJV]

The perfection of God's Word is its restorative quality in the soul. 'Perfect' ('tamiym') here means 'entire, integrity, without blemish, complete and full'.

Psalm 23:3a He **restores** my soul.

❖ God's Word Revives the soul with the Principle of LIFE

Psalm 119:25 My **soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me** according to **Your word.**

'Dust' symbolically indicates fleshly carnality. Left to itself, the unrenewed soul has a natural tendency toward fleshly pursuits and sinful indulgence. The soul that sins results in spiritual death (Ezekiel 18:20a: *The soul that sinneth, it shall die*). The principle of spiritual death in the soul can only be cancelled and overcome through the reviving effects of God's Word. To revive means to make alive again. The Word of God contains the life of God and is able to bring revival to your soul. The soul must HEAR the Word of God and LIVE – Isaiah 55:3.

Isaiah 55:3a **INCLINE your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;**

❖ God's Word Strengthens a Weak Soul Beset by Negative Emotions

Psalm 119:28 My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word.

Grief is a negative soul emotion that can only be overcome by the strengthening of God's Word. The soul, which has the Word of God IMPRESSED upon it (Deut. 11:18), is able to overcome the negative consequences of emotional turmoil that we may sustain because of painful or difficult experiences. Grief, disappointment, hurt, betrayal, etc. can be quickly overcome if one's soul is saturated in the Word of God. What your soul needs is STRENGTH in these times – and this only comes through God's Word.

❖ God's Word Fills the Soul with Hope

Psalm 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.

The soul is able to express hope in God. Hope is a mental attitude of expectation. This attitude is not unfounded, but significantly grounded in the truth or a promise of God's Word. Hope is part of faith (see Heb. 11:1). Where faith is present, so is hope. Faith is generated by the hearing of the Word of God. Hope without faith is not biblical hope. The patient waiting in earnest expectation for the realisation of God's performed will in your soul is validated and fueled by its anchorage in God's Word.

❖ God's Word Purifies the Soul

1 Pet 1:22a Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls.

A prosperous soul is an undefiled soul, purified through active OBEDIENCE to God's Word. Every obedient act on our part further heightens the purity of our soul. Each entrenched inward mentality of obedience and every successive outward act of obedience is a step closer or another opportunity for the ongoing purification of the soul. Purity of soul is a perpetual personal process fuelled by obedient attitudes and acts.

God's Word Saves the Soul

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls

Deliberate setting aside of filthiness (immorality) and any residue of wickedness, together with the reception of the WORD OF GOD in an internal posture of HUMILITY, SAVES the SOUL.

THE SPIRIT AND WORD HEAL THE WOUNDED SOUL

After His baptism in water, Jesus went into the synagogue and read something of Himself from Isaiah's writings and testified that the scripture was fulfilled in Himself in the hearing of those who listened. Let's have a look at this passage and see that it succinctly encapsulates the total ambit of the ministry of our Lord on earth – and thus something we too need to embrace.

Luke 4:18,19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the

captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord (KJV).

Note two things:

1. The ANOINTING of the Spirit
2. The PREACHING of the Word

The word 'preach' is mentioned three times. The WORD OF GOD preached is able to bring deliverance and liberty. But simply preaching without the ANOINTING of the Spirit will not yield the desired result. We need the SPIRIT and the TRUTH. This powerful duo is able to set the captives free. Hence in this series, we rely entirely upon the Spirit through the anointing and the inherent power of God's word to bring wholeness to the wounded souls of people.

Isaiah 10:27 And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the **yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing**. (KJV)

Every yoke of bondage shall be destroyed because of the anointing. The Spirit of God brings an anointing to break every yoke of bondage or hurt. That anointing is really the person of Christ, which comes to us via the Holy Spirit. 'Christ' means the 'the anointed one'. Christ is also the fullness of Deity - Father, Son and Spirit (Col.2:9). When the Spirit comes to us, He - the Spirit of Truth - is the conduit through which we may access the fullness of the Father and the Son. So every time the Spirit of God descends upon you, represented in and by Him, is the fullness of the Godhead. There is a lot of revelation here, but I just want to emphasise that we need a fresh empowerment of the anointing power of God's Spirit in order to bring healing to the deep and inner recesses of people's hearts and souls.

Acts 10:38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God **anointed Him with the Holy Spirit** and with power, and how He went about doing good and **healing all who were oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him.

Note the specific areas of impact Jesus' ministry has:

- ❖ **Preach the Gospel to the Poor;**
- ❖ **Heal the Brokenhearted,**
- ❖ **Preach Deliverance to the Captives,**
- ❖ **Recovering of Sight to the Blind,**
- ❖ **Set at Liberty them that are Bruised,**
- ❖ **Preach the Acceptable Year of the Lord.**

In reference to healing the broken hearted, Jesus affirmed that He was **SENT** to do this. The word 'SENT' indicates that He is **authorised and empowered** to do this. The word '**apostle**' means '**sent one**'. Thus it takes an apostolic grace to heal the brokenhearted. I feel that our present time is one of great authorisation by the heavens to bring healing to many broken hearts.

A broken heart can be healed.

Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds

Prov. 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit

David prayed for God to give him a united heart – a whole heart without division or hurt within it.

Psalm 86:11 Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name

GOD WANTS YOU COMPLETELY HEALED

Part of my confirmation to commence this series came from a dream. When I awoke, a phrase resounded in my heart, ... 'HEAL THE HURT OF MY DAUGHTER ZION'. I checked the reference up and found these two scriptures:

Jer. 6:14 They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. (KJV)

Jer. 8:11 "They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace (Nasb)

I believe that presently there is a superficial peace in the church. There is a claim to great spirituality and maturity in the realm of spirit, but sadly, this exists side by side with a dwarfed development in the soul. Largely there exists passivity within the people of God to address the hurts within their souls. Worse still, many ministers and leaders themselves are beset by serious wounds in the soul, and hence their inability to bring wholeness to those they lead. It is imperative that God's people attain wholeness and healing in the soul – more so for leaders within the church. The well-known phrase, 'hurting people hurt people' is true. A leader with serious dysfunctionality in the area of the soul, who either does not see it, acknowledge it, refuses to deal with it or seek healing for it, will inevitably inflict hurt upon people - however spiritually gifted he/she may be. One of the great indicators of spiritual maturity would be that when someone hurts you, you respond by attempting to understand their motivation to hurt, their situation – instead of trying to hurt them back.

Jer. 8:21 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored. (Nasb)

Gilead was known for its healing balm (Gen. 37:25). Thus the question, "*Is there no balm in Gilead?*" is a rhetorical one. The problem was the application of that balm. The problem today is that there is no truthful proclamation of God's Word in some quarters, and where there is, there is still a lack of obedient application of God's word. The issue of the wholeness of one's soul will require your deliberate attention and conscious focus. There is a remedy! Obedience to God's Word will heal you. For any kind of disease, be it physical, mental or emotional, God's Word is still the BALM that we need.

The word 'disease' comprises of two parts, viz. the negative prefix, 'DIS' and the word, 'EASE'. 'Ease' denotes rest, peace, tranquility, alignment, wholeness, wellbeing and relief from pain, anxiety. Thus, when there is no 'ease', you become 'diseased' in spirit, soul or body. God's Word is health and healing for any expression of DIS-EASE (see Proverbs 4:20-22).

Exodus 15:26 And He said, " If you will give earnest heed to the **voice of the Lord your God**, and do what is right in His sight, and **give ear to His commandments**, and keep all His statutes, **I will put none of the diseases** on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer.

Many ministers of God's Word provide God's people with a false sense of security. Part of the way in which this is done is by excusing disobedient behaviour or inaccurate mentalities. They fail to point out the negative repercussion of carnality, simply to maintain membership or financial income. Subtly they are fostering a false peace within God's people. Specifically in the area of the hurting soul, to provide people with a false sense of wholeness by brushing over serious wounds in the soul, which result and/or are perpetuated by attitudes and actions opposed to God's Word. This is irresponsible and highlights the lack of true love for the people.

Jer. 23:17 They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, '**It shall be well with you**'; and to everyone who **stubbornly follows his own heart**, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.' (ESV)

1 Pet. 1:22 Since you have in **obedience to the truth purified your souls** for a **sincere love of the brethren**, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and **enduring word of God**.

The soul is purified **THROUGH OBEDIENCE** to the Word. This is for the ultimate purpose of loving people. The wounded soul is unable to love completely. To love, the soul must be purified. To have a purified soul, you simply have to bring your life to OBEYING God's Word. The act of obedience purifies the soul.

THE BRUISING OF SATAN: A BRUISED REED

In this series we will explore the following areas of potential wounded-ness in our souls. These I refer to as the 'bruising of satan':

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| • Offence | • Hatred | • Abuse | • Insecurity |
| • Bitterness | • Malice | • Disappointment | • Fear |
| • Unforgiveness | • Resentment | • Deferred Hope | • Rejection |
| • Anger | • Inner Hurt | • Identity Crisis | |

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

Note here that satan's head is bruised by the seed of the woman (which primarily refers to Christ). But it also states that satan will bruise the heel of the woman's seed. Whilst the primary reference of the seed of the

woman is to Christ, who CRUSHED (bruised) satan in His death on the cross, it also refers to us, the Body of Christ.

Satan is crushed under OUR FEET.

Rom 16:19 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The bruising or crushing of satan that he seeks to inflict us with affects our feet – i.e. our walk in God. This bruising most often manifests as a wounded soul, which for the most part affects us relationally – how we relate to others. I firmly believe that the area in which satan seeks to paralyse us, i.e. bruising our souls, especially our **emotions**, so that our walk as symbolised by the term ‘heel’ (attitudes and lifestyle) is rendered impotent, is the very means, by which we are empowered to crush him. **There is no one more potent and of greater potential benefit/use to God, His purposes and His people, than a person whose soul is whole and healed of any residue of hurt, carnality, etc.**

Note that Luke 4:18 indicates that part of Jesus ministry mandate is to **SET AT LIBERTY THOSE THAT ARE BRUISED**. This implies that a bruised person is in bondage and needs to be set free. So long as emotional hurt is accommodated, imprisonment and bondage is entrenched and the person will always have the sense of LIMITATION manifested in their lives in some respect or another.

Isaiah 42:1-3

- 1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.
- 2 “He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street.
- 3 “**A bruised reed He will not break** and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.

A bruised stick, Christ will not break. The word ‘BRUISED STICK’ denotes that which is weak and fragile. The Hebrew word, ‘ratsuts’ means **that which is broken and crushed, but not entirely broken off**. Christ is intent on not breaking the bruised reed. He does not intend to further exacerbate and augment the bruising or wounded-ness, thus bringing it to total collapse and breakdown. If this is the posture of Christ, so too must it be ours. If someone is already bruised, do not break them, but rather seek to heal them.

JESUS WAS BRUISED FOR YOU AND I SO OUR BRUISING MAY BE HEALED

Isaiah 53:4,5 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, **he was bruised for our iniquities**; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed (KJV)

YOU PROSPER AS THE SOUL PROSPERS

All forms of prosperity, i.e. are dependent on the degree to which the soul prospers and is in good health. To a large degree also, physical health and wellbeing depends on whether one is whole within your soul. There are many psychosomatic illnesses (these are illnesses caused by or aggravated by a mental factor such

internal conflict or stress), e.g. psoriasis, eczema, stomach ulcers, high blood pressure and heart disease can either be caused or made worse by mental stress.

3 John 1:2-4

- 2 Beloved, I pray that in **all respects** you **may prosper** and be in **good health, just as your soul prospers.**
- 3 For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are **walking in truth.**
- 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children **walking in the truth**

Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in **wisdom** and **stature**, and in **favor** with **God** and **men.**

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ‘Stature’ | : Physical and Material Prosperity - Health and Wealth |
| ‘Favour with God’ | : Spiritual Prosperity - A well-formed, undefiled and mature spirit |
| ‘Favour with Men’ | : Social or Relational Prosperity |
| ‘Wisdom’ | : Mental Prosperity - Inclusive of a mind that thinks like God, a will |

In my series, The Prosperity of the Soul, we listed the following as indicators of a prosperous soul.¹

- 1) A soul **led by the Spirit via the Word of God in one’s spirit.**
- 2) A mind of the soul that **thinks LIKE God** - having the mind of Christ.
- 3) A will of the soul that **decides like God** - it follows the resolution in the spirit, which is led by the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Emotions of the soul that **feel like God.**
- 5) Emotions that are **whole, healed, complete – no bruises or scars.**
- 6) A soul **not tormented by carnality** or works of the flesh.
- 7) A soul that is advanced in its **renewal or renovation process** by the Word of God.
- 8) A soul having a **sound mind.** A sound mind would include a mind that is ...
 - a. **devoid of fear**, but filled with divine love and power.
 - b. **well-balanced.**
 - c. **disciplined.**
 - d. **saturated in the Word of God** through constant meditation thereon.
 - e. **focused and clear.**
- 9) A soul that has **FOUND REST** in the Grace of God, not given to reliance upon works of human effort to attain spiritual results.
- 10) A soul **infused with the ‘ZOE’ Life of God** – the God-quality of life.
- 11) A soul that **embraces the truth and reality of prosperity** in all of its varied expressions.

The necessity to have a strong, well developed spirit anchored in the truth of God’s Word

There are several biblical characteristics of a mature spirit. These I discuss in my series, ‘The Spiritual Man’ – refer to Session 6: Characteristics of a Mature Spirit’. This is freely downloadable from my website in audio

¹ Consult the whole series for detailed explanation of these.

format² or in pdf text format.³ Addendum 1 at the end of this study, lists these characteristics – I encourage you to go through these.

Recall that the KJV indicates that the anointing breaks the yoke of bondage. The NIV frames **Isaiah 10:27b** as follows: “ ... **the yoke will be broken because you have grown so fat**”. Fat is symbolic of strength in scripture (e.g. ‘make fat your bones’ – Isaiah 58:11). **The ‘fatter’ or ‘stronger’ your spirit gets, the yoke in your soul has no option but to break off.** Healing a fractured soul requires developing a strong spirit.

A strong spirit can sustain you in your infirmity. But a wounded spirit is probably the most disadvantaged position to be in. A healthy/mature/strong spirit can cause you to endure any physical infirmity. But to entertain wounded-ness in spirit is intolerable for it cripples your capacity to keep buoyant amidst adversity. Be healed of every wound in spirit and soul in Jesus' name.

Prov. 18:14 The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, But as for a broken spirit who can bear it

Prov. 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear (KJV)

Prov. 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones

Prov. 15:13 A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken

The soul must permit the Holy Spirit, who through the truth of God's Word in and through one's spirit, is able to heal the wound and hurt in the soul.

ADDENDUM 1: HERE BELOW ARE SEVERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A COMPLETE OR MATURE SPIRIT

Positionally, the spirit at the initial salvation experience is entirely regenerated. Its practical full maturity and formation is progressive in that it must be continuously exposed to the proceeding Word of the Lord. **Your spirit should be characterised by the following:**

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ Word saturated and Word-marinated | [Acts 18:5; Heb. 4:12] |
| ▪ Joined to the Lord, as one Spirit with Him | [1Cor. 6:17] |
| ▪ Bears witness with God's Spirit as to sonship | [Rom. 8:16] |
| ▪ Searching and Seeking after God's will and ways | [Isaiah 26:9; 1 Cor. 2: 10-16] |
| ▪ Full of Grace | [Phile. 1:25; Gal.6:18; 2 Tim. 4:22] |
| ▪ Full of LIGHT | [Prov. 20:20, 27] |
| ▪ Enlightened | [Psalm 119:130; Eph. 1:18] |
| ▪ Peaceful : filled with the God of Peace | [1 Thess. 5:23] |
| ▪ Sanctified : Clean, Pure, Holy, Purified | [1 Thess. 5:23] |
| ▪ Complete : Whole, Perfectly Sound | [1 Thess. 5:23] |
| ▪ Complete : Retaining all that was allotted to it and lacking nothing for wholeness | [1 Thess. 5:23] |
| ▪ Blameless, Faultless without Defilement of any kind of carnality | [1 Thess. 5:23] |

² <http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/audios.html>

³ <http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/PDF's/Spiritual%20Man%20PDFs/SPIRIT%20CHECK-LIST.pdf>

- Renewed, Repaired, Rebuilt [Psalm 51:10]
 - Steadfast, Fixed and Established [Psalm 51:10]
 - Self-Controlled and Well-Disciplined [Prov. 25:28]
 - Fervent, Zealous with enthusiasm [Acts 18:25]
 - Compelled by the Spirit [Acts 18:5]
 - Refreshed [1 Cor. 6:17-18; 2 Cor. 7:13]
 - Makes decisions in its mind [Acts 19:21; 20:22]
 - So Pressed with the Word, it Impresses the Word on the Soul [Deut. 11:18]
 - Filled with Understanding of God's Will and Ways [Job 32:8,9]
 - Without fear, nor timidity. [2 Tim. 1:7]
 - Filled with love [2 Tim. 1:7]
 - Filled with power [2 Tim. 1:7]
 - Soundness of Mind (well balanced, sober, focused) [2 Tim. 1:7]
 - Aware of things and knowledge above the natural sphere [Mark 2:8]
 - Ability to be present in a place far removed from where the body is physically present [2 Kings 5:26; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Col 2:5; Rev. 21:10]
 - Repentful when in error [Psalm 51:17]
 - Constantly WEIGHED by God as a check and balance against and correcting my own estimate of the rightness of things. [Prov. 16:2]
 - Able to Endure any external negative condition (sickness) [Prov. 18:14]
 - Humble, dependent on God [Matt.5:3]
 - Provoked when God's purposes are not performed regionally [Acts 17:16]
 - Groans and Troubled at the thought of things out of alignment with God's will and word. [John 13:21; 11:33-39]
 - Apprises relationships above the pursuit of ministry advancement [2 Cor. 2:12b, 13]
 - Blesses [1 Cor. 14:16]
 - Characterized by grace and supplication (prayer) [Zech. 12:10]
 - Prayerful at all times [Eph. 6:18]
 - Capacity to pray God's perfect will in the Spirit [Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 14:14,15]
 - The origin from which worship emanates [John 4:24]
 - Sings [1 Cor. 14:15]
 - Rejoices in God [Luke 1:47; Prov. 15:30]
 - Determines one's speech/words [Job 26:4; 2 Sam 23:2; Matt 10:20; John 6:63]
 - Made Perfect [Heb. 12:23]
 - A spirit that GIVES LIFE [1 Cor. 15:45]
-

ADDENDUM 2 : DIAGRAMS:

Diagram 1



Diagram 2:

The centrality of the spirit indicates its pivotal and strategic placement and function in the man.

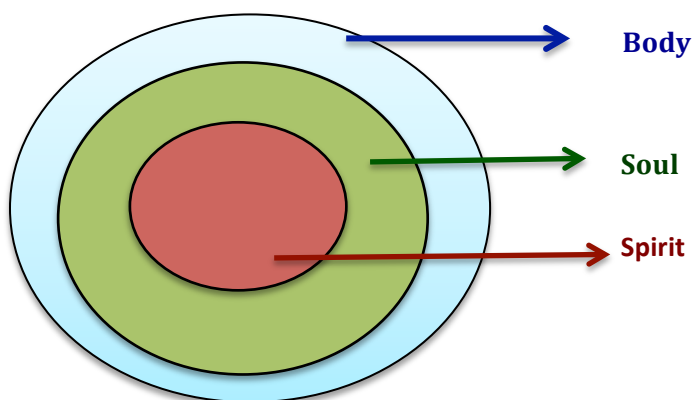


Diagram 3:

The size of the circles indicates the predominance and influence of each part.

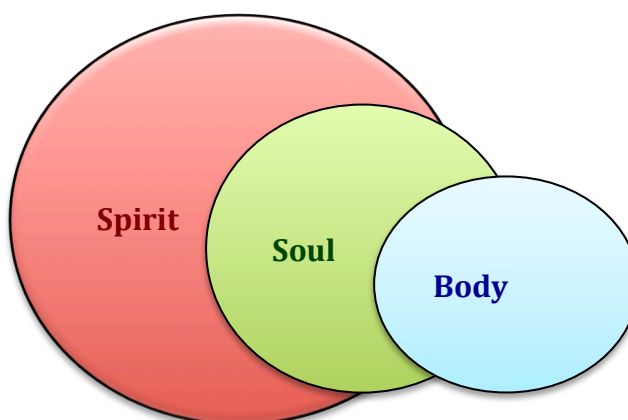
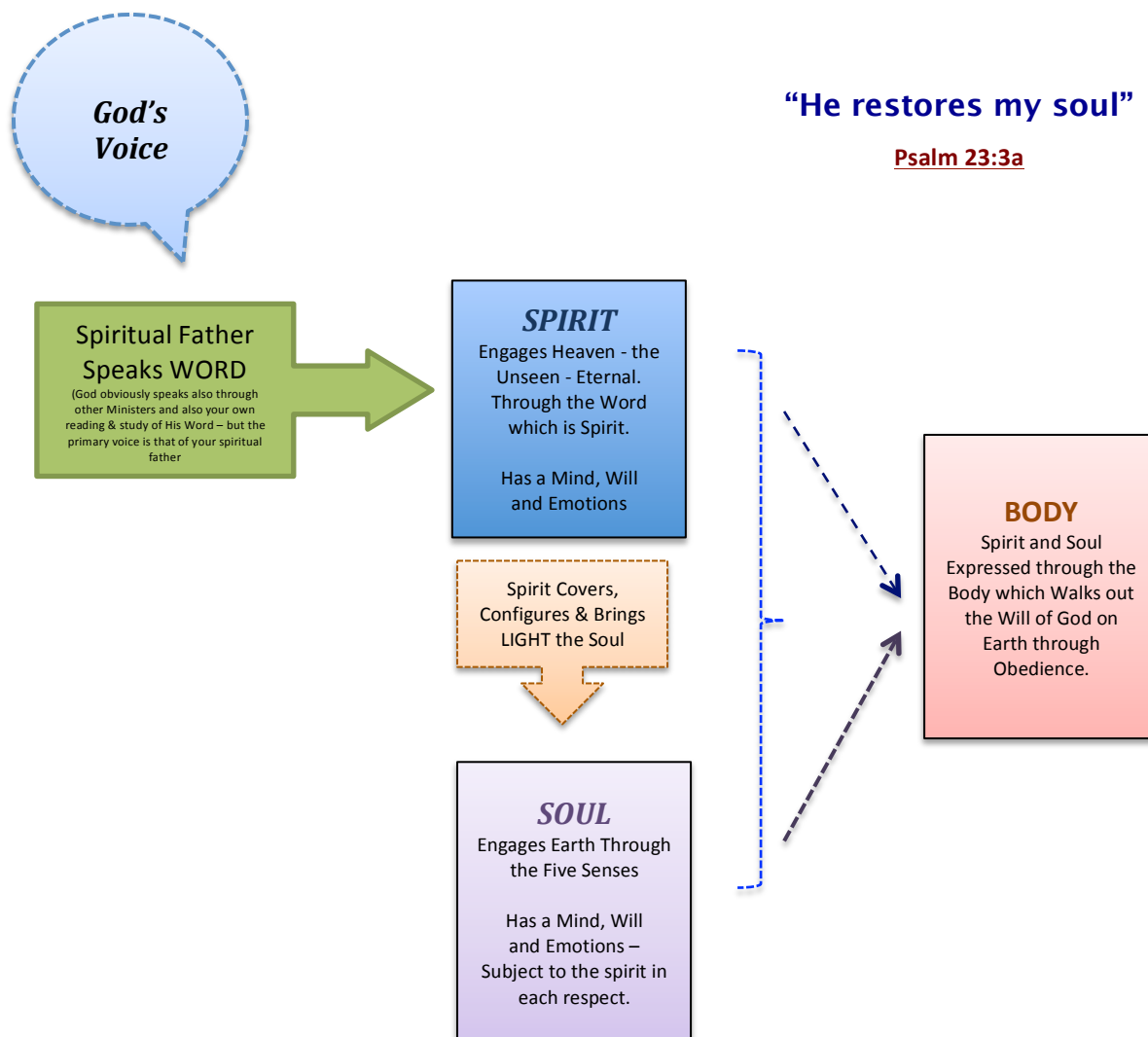


Diagram 4**Stay in Touch via my Website and Social Networks**

‘Follow’ Randolph Barnwell personally via Facebook or Twitter to receive regular inspirational and encouraging short posts and tweets highlighting key life principles from God’s Word. You may also freely download notes and audio files of each session from www.randolphbarnwell.com. Additional materials on various topics are also available for download here. Enquiries: randolph@gatedc.co.za

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Other excellent and empowering resources are available from:thamonaaidoo.comapostolicleader.co.zasoleyn.comjosephmaterra.orgtouchthenations.co.zalifeenterprise.co.zaelijahmorgan.eugmh.co.zathekingdomplatform.comgodihear.comegen.co