

## THE REDEMPTION OF THE SOUL

The soul comprises of the intellect, will and emotion. Without it we would have no personality. Created from dust, we are nothing more than just that, a condition in which we will return after we die. What will happen to the soul of man after his death? Which is eternal, the spirit or the soul? Which one is life? Are they both eternal? One has to know that the spirit is not one with the soul as it has been taught. Man is spirit, soul and body. Each one has a specific function in the plan God had when He created man. The soul is sinful; the spirit is our conscience, which guide us to do what is right and convicts us when the soul does not listen to it. We communicate with God through the spirit; when the soul listens to the spirit, it does not sin. But when it doesn't, the body or the flesh falls into soulish act, which means fleshly or carnal. When YAHSHUA died the redemptive death, it was to redeem the soul. A Christian, who follows the Lord's teachings, he is guided by the Holy Spirit, Who lives in his spirit. That's where we receive life eternal, for the spirit never dies. The two destinations presented to him, heaven and hell are two places where the spirit will end up at the end of his life, depending on what decision he has made while alive – to accept the gift of salvation or to reject it. The mind, the control center of the body, has much to do with our actions. The mind that is not renewed by the Holy Spirit, will lead the body to sin through the thoughts – she thought that it was good, then she desired to eat it. The flesh, in harmony with the soul, served as an instrument by which the sinful action took place. Eve, after being tempted, desired the prohibited fruit. Her emotion followed the path of her thought and will- it felt good to her even before trying it, just by looking at it- the lust of the eyes- flesh.

Her spirit accused her of wrong doing, when she told Satan that they were not allowed to eat that fruit. The soul, however, overcame the spirit and Eve sinned. The Bible says, "The soul that sins will die." Man died the moment he ate the fruit. His death was physical and also spiritual. His spirit which is his life was then condemned to hell. When man dies, his soul ceases to act. The soul is motivated to act through the body's functions of the heart, which works to circulate the blood through the body. The blood is the physical life of man. The functions of the body will work, even when the soul becomes inert, that is without power to move. So, it is that man is spirit, personality, and flesh. One cannot work independently, for man to act as God created him. The Bible says that as man thinks, so he is. Man thinks with the mind. The mind constitutes a battlefield for Satan to control man. When Adam and Eve sinned, their desires and emotions became dictated by their fallen mind, which influenced their behaviors.

The mind, the will and the emotion are all entwined, in man's desires, and feelings. Man speaks and behaves according to their thinking. The heart, which is not part of the soul, but of the physical body, is a transporter of life through the pumping of blood through the entire body. Representing the physical part, the Bible says that it is deceitful above all things, and it is exceeding perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it? (Jer. 17:9). When YAHSHUA, our Lord, was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He suffered the pain of the soul, as He confined to the disciples saying: My soul is very sad and deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of sorrow. Stay here and keep awake and keep watch with Me (Matt. 26:38) and Luke reports the same in other words: And He with drew from them about a stone's throw and knelt down and

prayed, saying, Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done. And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening in spirit. And being in agony [of mind], He prayed more earnestly and intently, and His sweat became like great clots of blood dropping down upon the ground (Luke 22:41-44).

YAHSHUA'S pain in the soul was for the redemption of our soul, which is contrary to God's principles. As Adam and Eve demonstrated when they sinned knowingly. Since then, the soul's stubbornness reflects the sinful condition that comes from within and that includes the heart also. The Apostle Paul wrote about that in Romans 8:6-7: Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death, but the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and peace. Because the mind of the flesh] with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's law; indeed, it cannot. The disease of the soul expresses itself in sadness, depression, grief, fear, worries, panic attacks and anxiety. It constitutes agony of the mind. There, in the garden, our Lord YAHSHUA suffered the mental agony to redeem our soul from its sinful nature and enmity against God. So, it is that our soul must be sanctified in order for us to be glorified. It is in the will, emotion and mind of man that it takes place. "Not My will, O God, but Your will be done." Should be the prayer of every born-again Christian. The renewed mind, will and emotion are the evidences that one has truly been born again. It is the evidence of the result of YAHSHUA'S work of redemption of the soul.

In the letter to the Romans, Paul appeals to the Christian Romans and begged them to make a decisive dedication of their bodies [presenting all their members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which was their reasonable service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom. 12:1-2) This is only possible through a renewed mind. Talking to Nicodemus, YAHSHUA emphasized the importance of being born again, that is born of water, and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God; what is born of the flesh is flesh; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:5-6). It is only through the acceptance of the gift of salvation offered by our Lord and Savior, YAHSHUA, when He paid the ultimate price of redemption with His own blood and when He took upon Himself the diseases of the mind in the Garden of Gethsemane.

When there is no evidence of transformation of the mind, there is very little to believe that one has been born again. Been born of the Spirit, one will act according to the Holy Spirit's desires. The old life is no longer in control of the soul, for it is dead to the desires of the flesh and alive to live according to the desires of the Spirit of God. The Apostle Paul confirms saying, I am crucified with Christ, live not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me (Gal. 2:20). That means, the soul is now controlled by the Holy Spirit Who lives in me. The flesh has no longer the right to do whatever pleases it. Our priority should be that of pleasing our God, whose sacrificial love saved us. It is in the soul level that Satan temps and infiltrates his evil thoughts. The soul, the active part of the body, must submit to the work of sanctification in order to be saved and have an entrance in heaven. The unsanctified soul has no place in heaven, for it does not submit to God, indeed it cannot.