

THE SPIRIT IS LIFE TO THE BODY; FAITH IS THE SUSTAINER OF THE SOUL

Our spirit communicates with our soul, while the soul communicates with the body. A life of strong faith is the result of the soul applying faith to be an overcomer, while listening to the spirit. The Bible says that "Faith is the assurance, the confirmation, the title deed of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things, [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality" (Heb. 11:1). Our soul is the responder of circumstances arising our way. That's when, if we are listening to the spirit, we will act in faith and dependance in our Lord. The soul comprising of the intellect, will, and emotion, will dominate circumstances through the emotions. The emotions, the sensitive part of the soul, is the first to react. If we respond in anger, that will turn into bitterness of heart. It is not sin to anger; it is however to hold onto it, causing bitterness. Paul said, "When angry, do not sin, do not ever let your wrath last until the sun does down; leave no room or foothold for the devil" (Eph. 4:26). Psalms 4:4 says "Be angry and sin not; commune with own heart upon your beds and be silent." Hebrews 12:14 says "Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

Faith is the pillar of the soul; it will never fail us, for faith takes us to the throne of Grace, where our Lord and Savior is ready to honor it. "Without faith it is impossible to please God; for whomever would come near to Him must believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6). When we exercise faith, we are honoring the word of God by obedience. As Paul advised us "be constantly renewed in the spirit of the mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude]" (Eph. 4:23). That's the soul he is talking about. The enemies of our soul are in constant battle against it. It interferes with our relationship with God, bringing us down to temptations to doubt Him and His promises. The battle of the mind is a control center for the devil to destroy us. It is where the flesh and the spirit collide fighting for what they desire (Gal. 5:17). Only when the soul submits to the Spirit and His leadership is that we understand that the weapons of our warfare are not physical, but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds. Those purposes and thoughts that are not from God, we must lead them captive into the obedience of Messiah (II Cor. 10:4,5).

When the flesh and the soul are not renewed unto holiness, their desires are always contrary to the Spirit desires, for in our humanity, the normal for us is to disregard the important role that faith has in our decision and life style. So, we often fall into the arms of temptations. But faith is the pillar that holds us secure and close to our Shepherd. Listening to the Spirit, our faith is strengthened, for we are not struggling with flesh, according to Paul to the letter to the Ephesian's Church. He said, "Put on God's whole armor, that you may be able successfully to stand up against the strategies and the deceits of the devil, for our struggles are not with flesh and blood, but against the despotisms, against the powers against the world rulers of the present darkness against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere" (Eph. 6:11-12).

This armor is without a doubt, complete with faith and the Word of God. When our soul is not in communication with the spirit, we walk in the flesh, satisfying its desires, harboring willful sin, hindering our communication with God. The Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Ps. 6:18). This is the time when we must direct to the soul instructing it to "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is withing me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits- Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercy; Who satisfies you mouth with good so that you youth, renewed, is like the eagle's" (Ps. 103:1-5). Yes, we can speak to our body and soul and demand them to do what's right; Our spiritual power is exercised when we lead those thoughts that are not from God away from our mind before it constitutes mental, emotional and physical problems.

Paul emphasizes the importance of walking in the Spirit and being guided by Him in Romans 8:14-15: "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are born of God; for you have not received a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption, which we cry, Abba Father! However, those who are living the life of the flesh cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him" (vs 8). They live a life empty of faith, outside God's perimeter of love and His commands. They are rebelling against the Spirit of God, suppressing His rights to be what He is to be in our life, that is if we are born-again. The Holy Spirit is our (Comforter, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby). He is the Spirit of Truth; He guides us in all truth (John 15:26; 16:13). A life of faith is a life that is led by the Holy Spirit; it walks hand-in-hand with Him, following his instructions with faith that pleases the heavenly Father to be free from fear, worries, and anxieties. John says, "There is no fear in love, but full-grown love turns fear out of the doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love" (I John 4:18). Fear is the opposite of faith. If we are not controlled by faith, fear will take over our emotions and lead us to physical and mental problems.

We must guard our soul with faith that will endure the tests of time; With faith comes joy, peace that passes all understanding. The Bible says, "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God; and God's peace which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Messiah YAHSHUA" (Phil. 4:6-7). Let's hold on to faith and we will see mountains being transported. Faith is the sure anchor of the soul; it gets stronger when the soul follows the instructions from the Spirit- the source of all our strength and victory. Faith provides for us a level path when we are going through the trials of life. Accompanied by peace, faith comforts and shows the way to our victory; it is through perseverance and our submission to the Word of God, even in the darkest valley of life. Even there, we can experience God's peace through faith. By faith, its martyrs suffered death, rejection, mocking and scourging and even chains and imprisonment... they were utterly destituted, without giving up their faith. These people all died controlled and sustained by their faith, but not having received the tangible fulfillment of [God's] promises, only having seen it and greeted it from a great distance by faith, and all the while acknowledging and confessing that they were strangers and temporary residents and exiles

upon the earth... But the truth is that they were yearning for and aspiring to a better and more desirable country, that is, a heavenly one. For that reason, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (Heb.11:13,16).

How about you, my friend? Is your faith strong enough to aspire heaven more than your life in this earth? "YAHSHUA, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:2b). Faith - let's thrive to live by it, as the Lord desires us to.