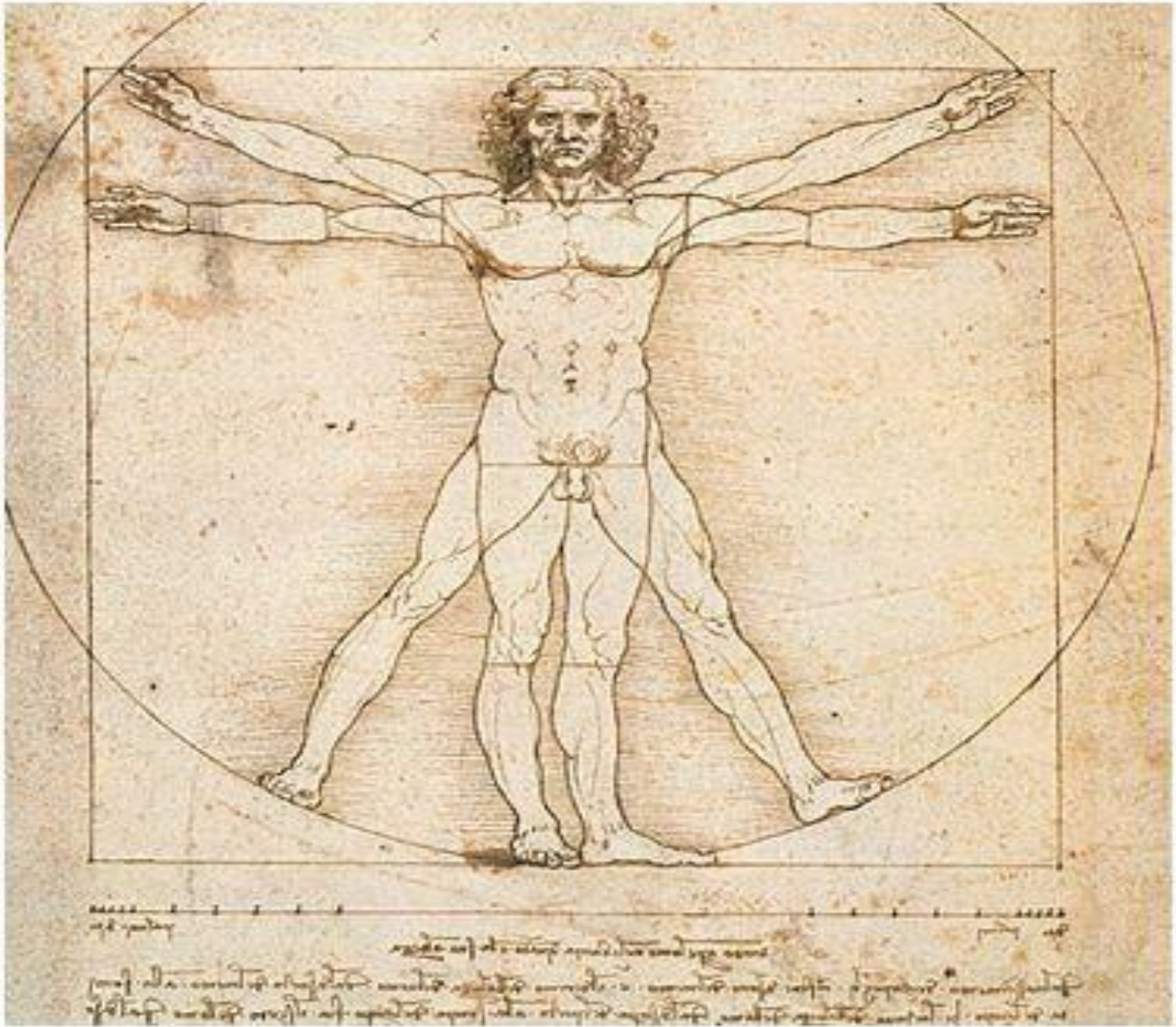


The Simple Truth Series #2

Why have You made me like this?



A Study of our Body, Soul, and Spirit, in the Bible.

Brother Kevin

www.therescueshop.org

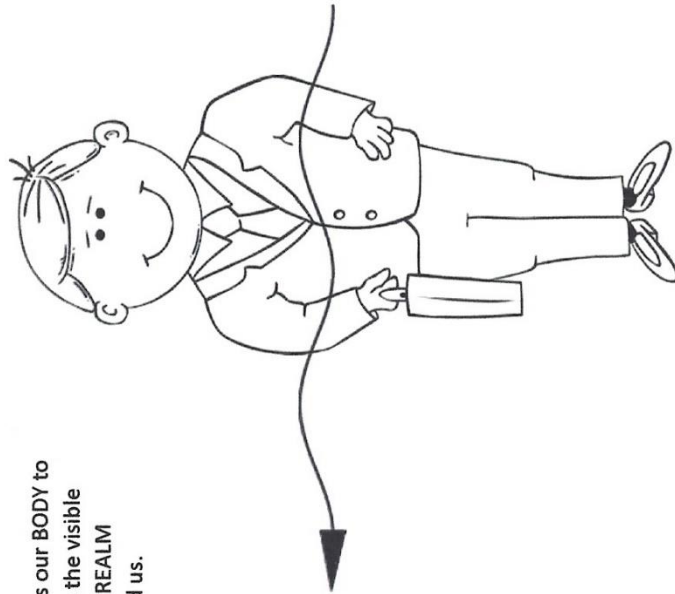
'And expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.' Acts 18:26.

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BODY
PHYSICAL



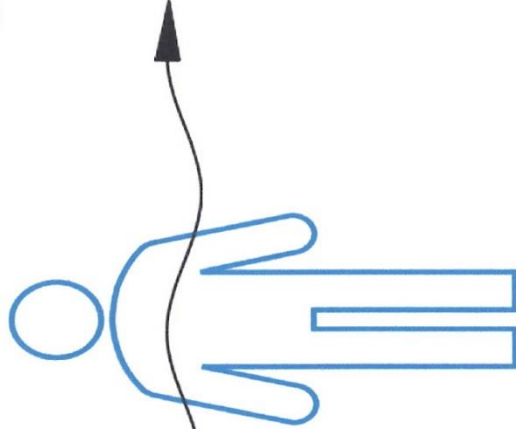
Our SOUL uses our **BODY** to
interact with the visible
PHYSICAL REALM
around us.

SOUL
INTELLECTUAL



SENSES
CONSCIENCE
IMAGINATION
REASON
AFFECTIONS
MEMORY

SPIRIT
SPIRITUAL



Our SOUL uses our **SPIRIT** to
interact with the unseen
SPIRITUAL REALM
around us.

SENSES
FAITH
HOPE
REVERENCE
PRAYER
WORSHIP

1.

Why have You made me like this?

'And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Each person on earth is made up of these three parts, a Body, a Soul, and a Spirit. In this study we will look at them, so we can answer the question posed in Romans 9:20, *'Why have You made me like this?'* Why are we made up of three separate parts? And, how can they work together, so we can live the full life we were designed to live?

Our Body, our Soul, and our Spirit, each have five senses, which are shown on the chart on the previous page. We will also have to consider them, in order to understand why, He made us like this.

Our Soul is the Intellectual part of us. It's the place where our heredity, experiences, and personal preferences, all combine to make us the individual we are, unique from everyone else on earth. It's our character and personality, and it's the part of us that is aware of everything around us, of you and me. It's our life.

Our Soul uses our Body to interact with the physical world around us, and it uses our Spirit to interact with the unseen Spiritual world around us. The Spiritual world isn't invisible, it's just another dimension behind this one, that we can't see with our eyes. In Genesis 22:11, the Angel called to Abraham 'out of Heaven.' Where was Heaven? On the other side of the universe? No! Heaven is another dimension right here, and the Angel opened a window between the Spiritual world, and the Physical world, and called to Abraham. The spiritual world is here, but it's unseen.

2.

Our Body

The five physical senses that our body has are, Sight, Taste, Touch, Smell, and Hearing. When we pick up a tomato, we can see what colour it is, and what size it is, and whether it looks smooth or rough. By holding it, we can tell yes, it's smooth. We can smell it, we can taste it. Each one of our senses are attracted to certain things. Our hearing isn't attracted to light, or colour, or heat. Our taste isn't attracted to sound. But, when a dog barks behind me, that gets the attention of my hearing. And I wonder, is that a, come-and-play-with-me bark, or a you'd-better-run-or-I'm-going-to-have-you

-for-lunch type of bark. Our hearing was created to respond to sound. And, each one of our fifteen senses were created to respond to certain things.

If we only live by our physical senses and the fleshy desires and pleasures of our Body, we are living on the level of an animal. A pig or a sheep, eats, drinks, and procreates, and sadly, that's all many people do. But life is supposed to be much richer than that, for each one of us. We were created to reach into the Spiritual World, to find God, and learn of the depths of His love for us; and we use our Spirit, to contact that world.

3.

Our Spirit

Our spirit has five senses, Faith, Hope, Reverence, Prayer, and Worship. Where did we get our five physical senses from? Did we get them for our first birthday? Did we get them for Christmas from Aunt Clara? No, we were born with them, and we have the same eyes, nose, ears etc, all our lives.

And where do we get our five Spiritual senses from? Did we get them yesterday? Did we get them when we were old enough to earn some money to buy them? No, again we were born with them. We were all born with the ability to Pray every prayer we are ever going to Pray. We were born with the ability to Worship as much as we're ever going to Worship. And we were all born with as much Faith as we're ever going to have. But, it's like our legs. We were all born with legs, but we weren't born running, we weren't even born walking. We had to learn *how* to use our legs. And even though we're all born with the Faith to move mountains, we have to learn *how* to use that Faith.

Faith

The Lord said to *His* disciples, "O ye of *little* Faith." But, to the centurion He said, "I have not found such *great* Faith." The difference between little and great, isn't a difference in volume, it's a difference in use. The centurion trusted Him but the disciples didn't.

A man was going to push a wheelbarrow across a wire above Niagara Falls. He asked the assembled crowd if they believed he could do it. "Yes! Yes!" they yelled. So, he invited one of them to sit in the wheelbarrow, but he had no takers. They believed him, but they didn't trust him. We need to do better than that as Christians.

In Romans 12:31 we are told, *'God has given to every man, (and that includes every woman, and every child), the measure of faith.'* What is our measure of Faith given to us for? The Lord said, *"If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed ye would say to this mountain, be removed, and be cast into the sea, and it would obey you."* Is it to move mountains? No. Romans 1:17, tells us, *'The just shall live by faith.'* That's what it's for. It's Faith to live by in our everyday lives. Faith is not supposed to be some far off mysterious something, that we reach for, but can't quite grasp. It's supposed to be so close, and so accessible, that we can live by it. Because Faith is the bridge between the Physical and Spiritual world's, Faith makes the Spiritual available to the Physical. And it is Faith that makes God accessible to man. When we pray it's the Spiritual power that heals someone. The Physical can't do that. It's the Spiritual power that multiplies loaves and fishes, and turns water into wine. The Physical world can never do that.

Here's little Johnny. He's 4 years old, and he goes to the park with Dad. He climbs to the top of the pirate ship, and he's so proud of himself. He yells, "Daddy, look at me, I'm on top of the world!" Then he looks down at the ground, and it's so far away. And he yells, "Daddy, help me!" So, Dad says, "Just hang down from the crow's nest, and let go, and I'll catch you." "No!" Johnny screams. "Come on," Dad says, "Trust me. Just let go, and I'll catch you." "No!" Johnny screams again. But finally, Johnny closes his eyes as tightly as possible, let's go, and Dad catches him. And it took Faith for Johnny to trust Dad and let go of that crow's nest.

Johnny grows up and has a family of his own. And when he does the grocery shopping each week, he doesn't get the food analysed, to make sure there's nothing wrong with it, before he feeds it to his family. No, he trusts the manufacturers, that they haven't put rat poison in it. And again, that takes Faith. So, Johnny *is* living by Faith, but not in the way the Lord intended, because Faith is a Spiritual sense, and it's given to us for a Spiritual purpose. That purpose is to trust the Unseen Spiritual world, while we're living in this Physical world. It's the bridge that joins them.

In John 3:3, the Lord said, *"Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* He is blind to it. It's only after we have a Spiritual awakening, and we find out the Spiritual World exists, that we can use Faith in the way it was intended to be used. Because, then we have something to base our Faith *on*. It isn't Blind Faith, based on *nothing*. The Lord's Word and Will, are the Laws that govern Faith. Faith will not work outside of the Will and Purposes of God. And we learn, that the same simple Faith it took for Johnny to trust every Tom Dick and Harry in this world, is the same simple Faith that it takes, to move a mountain.

Now our friend Johnny has a Spiritual awakening, and he becomes a Christian. He reads about how the Lord is answering Prayer today. So, he decides to Pray for something, when he reads where Jesus said, *"If you have Faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea."* But we don't normally start by moving mountains. So, Johnny Prays for something that he feels is a

bit more achievable. And when he prays, he isn't wondering if the Lord *can* do it, because he knows He can. But, more importantly, he wants to know if He *will* do it for little-old-insignificant-me? Will God hear and answer *my* prayers. So, he's putting the Lord to the test. And the Lord is gracious to His young children, the way any good parent is gracious to their young children. And He answers Johnny's Prayer quickly, because He knows, that to Johnny 'seeing is believing.' If Johnny doesn't see it happen, he won't believe it's happened. And when he sees his prayer answered, it gives Johnny confidence to Pray for greater things, and the Lord goes on answering Johnny's Prayers quickly.

It may go on like this for six months, and it may go on for half a lifetime. But finally, the Lord will say, "Ok Johnny. I've been faithful to My Word to you all this time. Now you say you trust Me? Let me check?" And the next time Johnny Prays, his Prayer is answered a week later. And Johnny thinks, "That's a long time to wait, but I can work with that." And the next time he Prays it's a month. Then two months. Then six months. Then a year, even longer. But, by this time it doesn't worry Johnny at all. Because, he finally realizes that he had it all wrong. Seeing *isn't* believing. His prayer wasn't answered because he *saw* it happen. It was answered because he *believed* it would happen. It's the other way around. Believing is seeing. Because my faith is the evidence of what I haven't seen yet.

And from then on, he doesn't have to see it happen to believe it's happened. He knows, that whatsoever he asks for in Prayer, *believing*, he will receive. And when Johnny gets to that stage, he is finally living by Faith in the way the Lord intended him to.

Faith isn't only given to us to trust the Lord to supply our needs. It's also given to us, to walk hand in hand with Him through every situation we find ourselves in, trusting Him. Today, people are supposed to be independent, motivated, and determined. That independence is something this world values highly, because it's seen as a strength. But the Lord sees it as a weakness, because, we weren't created to be like that. We were created to be helpless, and totally dependent on Him. But, when sin entered the world, along with it came the knowledge of good and evil; and it's this knowledge of good and evil, that makes us independent, because, we found that we could get ourselves out of this one by ourselves. We didn't need Him any longer, thank you.

What did Satan say to Eve? "*You will be as God.*" And he was right, because when I am using my own wisdom and knowledge, to get myself through a situation that He is supposed to get me through, I am putting myself in His place. So, our independence is contrary to the Will of God, and He has to cure us of it.

Many years ago, while hunting, I became trapped on a mountain with a friend during a severe snowstorm. We both knew our next decision would be the right one, or the wrong one. Either we would find a way out, or we would perish there. So, I prayed, "Lord, let this storm cease. And let us walk out of here in sunshine." That's what I

wanted. To be warm and dry, and out of that freezing storm. As soon as I prayed, the clouds parted above us, and the sun shone through. And we were standing in the centre of a 200-metre circle of brilliant sunshine, in the midst of the storm. In jubilation I raised my arm and yelled, "Praise the Lord!" Then the sky closed up, and we were back in the storm. But when the sun shone, I noticed a break in the scrub about 100 metres below us. It was a deer trail, but we followed it, and four hours later we were safely back at our car.

That's what we're like isn't it? We like to take the easy way out, the shortcut, the quick fix. We want a helicopter to rescue us from the storm, because we don't like going through them. But the Lord doesn't want to still the storms for us. He wants us to trust Him, to lead us through the storms to safety.

The purpose of storms in our lives, whether it's a snow storm, a financial disaster, or a crippling sickness, is sometimes to correct us. But, more often, it's to let us get in over our heads, and out of our depth, until we completely lose control of the situation. Then we do as the cliché says 'We let go, and let God.' When we get to that point, where our own strength and abilities can't get us through this one, we give up our independence, and surrender the situation to Him. *Then*, we are depending on Him, to do what we should have been trusting Him to do from the very beginning. We let Him be Lord of the situation. Then, we find out as Paul did, '*When I am weak, then I am strong.*'

We try to avoid the storms of life, because we feel that we have to go through them alone. But we don't, He's there! He's there! He's always there! He promised, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you*".

Paul said, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" Right answer. But King Nebuchadnezzar stood on his rooftop, looking over his vast Kingdom, and said, "*All this have I got by my own power.*" Sorry old boy, wrong answer. The Lord had Nebuchadnezzar on his knees eating grass, for the next seven years. We have to learn, that we are totally dependent on Him, no matter how successful we are; for our next mouthful of food, for our next breath of air, for the next beat of our heart, because that's where they come from.

Hope

Every week thousands of people buy lotto tickets. But, none of them walk out of the shop yelling, "I won! I won!" Because, the ticket only gives them a *chance* to win. They may, or may not win, and most don't. That's what this world calls Hope. Something that may, or may not happen, but they *Hope* it will.

This sense we call Hope, is different from that. Scientists tell us we use 10% of our

brains for the affairs of our everyday life; what we're going to wear today, what we're going to eat etc; and the other 90% is used to ponder mysteries. In Job 14:14, Job asks, *"If a man dies, shall he live again?"* He saw a tree die and sprout again. So, he asked, *"What about man?"* But his question wasn't so much, *"What about man?"* It was personal. More importantly, he was asking, *"What about me? Can I live again?"* It's a question this sense called Hope, places within the heart of every person on earth.

While we're young, we feel bulletproof, and rarely consider it. But as we age, we are confronted by our own mortality, and the question surfaces, *"What about me?"* That's why we have such a proliferation of cults, and religions on earth. It's Spiritually hungry people -calling out, *"What about me? What's going to happen to me? How can I outlive death?"* Not just, *"How can I cheat it for a while?"* But, *"How can I go through this experience called death, and come out still thinking, hearing, seeing, and speaking, on the other side of it?"*

How important is it that we find the answer to this question? When you consider that 10% of our brain is allocated for everything else in our lives, and the other 90% is allocated for answering this one question, then you realise, it's the most important question we will ever ponder, so, the Lord wanted to make sure we got it right. But most people don't. You can even ask Christians if they're saved, or if they have eternal life, and many of them will answer, *"I hope so."* Sorry, wrong answer. Fail. Hope is never the answer. Hope is only the question.

So, what is the answer? Job found it in Job 19:25-27. *"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold."* That's when the question was settled for Job. *I hope*, is the question, *I know*, is the answer. *"These things I have written unto you, that you may know that you have eternal life."* (1 John 5:13). That's when the question was settled for John. And the question is settled for each of us, when we can say *"I know that I have eternal life."* Because, no matter how faithful we are in going to Church, no matter how good our life has been, until we can say, *"I know,"* that question that hope has placed within our hearts, hasn't been answered yet. When it is answered, our gaze looks confidently beyond this mortality, to Eternity, and immortality. So, don't rest until you find it.

Reverence

This sense called Reverence, places within each of us, a desire to take Someone bigger than ourselves, and place them on a throne above us. That someone is supposed to be the Lord Jesus, but because we are born into a world that denies He exists, and explains

Him away, we don't know him, to place Him in that position of honour. But, because we have the desire to Revere someone, we look around the world for someone who is not just one of the common-old-garden-variety-hoi-polloi, like the rest of us; but someone who is larger than life. Most people will choose a celebrity. An actor, a singer, a musician, an athlete, or, it may even be a Religious leader. Then we take that person, and place them, not on a throne, but on a pedestal, above ourselves. Once they are up there, we idolise and Worship them, because we Worship, what we *Revere*. The purpose for putting the Lord on the Throne, is to humble ourselves before Him, and Worship Him.

Worship

Every person on earth Reveres and Worships *someone*, or it may be *something*. Their boat, their car, their house, their wife, their husband, their neighbour's wife. Or, it may be something as simple as a pair of shoes. A boy can buy the latest style of trainers, and as he struts down the road, he can't keep his eyes off them. And he's thinking, "Nobody got shoes like I got!" And when he says that about his shoes, he's saying the same thing Christians say, when they sing, "There is none like You!" He has taken those shoes and exalted them far above a pair of shoes and now he's Worshipping them. 1 Timothy 6:17 tells us, '*God gives us richly all things to enjoy.*' So, there is nothing wrong with houses, or boats, or shoes, or cars, or anything else upon this earth. But, our attitude toward them, is what makes them right, or wrong, for us personally.

It is important that we Worship the Lord, because God means, 'an object of worship,' and if no one Worshipped Him, He would still be our Creator, but He wouldn't be our God. It's our Worship that makes Him God. In the New Testament several times, when people came to Jesus, it says, 'And they worshipped Him, saying Lord...'. When they called Him Lord, they were worshipping Him, because they had given Him a title of Deity, and made Him into a God. And it is important for us, that we give Him his place of Reverence, and Honour, and Worship Him there.

Prayer

Prayer is normally defined as, 'Talking with God.' And, '*God is a Spirit.*' (John 4:24). So, prayer can be defined as Spiritual communication. Prayer is important, because as John

Wesley taught us, "God does nothing, except in answer to Prayer." So, what is Prayer? Is it us giving the Lord our shopping list? That's part of it, but it isn't the important part. As Spiritual communication, it has to have some Spiritual depth to it. In Luke 10:38-42, we read about Mary and Martha. Jesus was at their home, and Martha did all the work, while Mary sat at Jesus' feet, and listened to Him. Martha complained, "*Lord don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me!*" But Jesus didn't care. He answered, "*One thing is needful, and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*"

All of our testifying to others about Him is good, and the things that we do in His Service are good, but the most needful part, as Mary knew, was just being close to Him, alone with Him, sitting at His feet, and hearing from Him. Because Christianity is not a Religion, it's a love relationship, between the One who 'so loved the world,' and us, the love of His life. And, our time of Prayer, is our time of intimacy with God. The purpose of creation, was so the Lord would have someone, who would have the freedom to choose to live their life without Him, but would choose instead, to want to know Him, to want to be near Him, to love Him from their heart, as Mary did. She chose to spend her time with Him.

The secret part of Prayer is not us talking, then getting up and walking away. That isn't a conversation, it's a lecture. But the secret of Prayer is to wait, after you finish speaking, for the Lord to answer you back. He waits patiently all day, for us to speak with Him, and we should give Him the same privilege, and wait quietly, for Him to answer us, when He's ready. You may wait five minutes, or an hour, or three hours. But when He speaks back, or shows you a Vision, it will change you. And it will change your life. That's the real depth of Spiritual Intimacy, and it's unforgettable. But the Lord isn't like us. He doesn't make a noise, just for the sake of making a noise. If He doesn't have anything to say to you, He won't speak, no matter how long you wait. But from experience, He will answer. He longs to speak with you personally, and intimately, because you are the love of His life.

We all know what an iceberg looks like. It has that small visible tip, that the whole world can see, and, it has a huge area under water, that no one sees, except fish. That's what our Prayer life should be like. There should be that small tip of public Prayer, that's visible to the whole world. But there should be volumes more, of this private, personal, intimate Prayer, that no one knows anything about, except you and Him. Just you and Him alone. Lovers. Like Mary, sitting at the feet of Jesus.

4.

Our Soul

Because we reach out to both Worlds from our Soul, our Soul is where our Physical and Spiritual worlds meet. Too often it's where they collide, because, we are told '*The Spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy.*' (James 4:5). The Holy Spirit is jealous of the amount of time we spend on Physical things. Most Christians can happily watch a TV program for an hour, then say, "That was stupid." But, for them to pray for an hour would be agony. In the parable of the Sower, Jesus said, the seed sown among thorns, were those who receive the Word, and the cares of this life, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. There's nothing wrong with watching TV, but we need to feed our Body, our Soul, *and* our Spirit, and the one we feed the most is the one who will prevail in our lives. We all have families to provide for, but we are told to seek 'first' the kingdom of God. It's a matter of balance, and putting first things first. We have to make time for the Physical, and the Spiritual.

Our Soul has five senses. Conscience, Imagination, Reason, Affections, and Memory.

Conscience

When I was a boy, we would go stealing fruit from orchards at night. I was ok until I got to the fruit tree, then my heart would start thumping, and I was always looking behind. Why was that? It was dark and no one could see me. But my Conscience was warning me, "Don't do that, it's wrong." Our Conscience is a policeman. It's there to warn us that we're about to do something wrong. Why? Because, we're told in Ezekiel 18:4, '*The Soul that sinneth it shall die.*' Our Soul is where all the decisions of our life are made, and it's our Soul that makes the decision to sin, therefore it's our Soul that must pay the penalty for our sin.

Everyone's Physical body will die on this earth, saint or sinner. That's the first death, as Hebrews 9:27 tells us, the result of sin in the Garden of Eden. But, the second death, (Revelations 20:14-15), is the destruction of the Soul of sinners, in the Lake of Fire, and the end of their consciousness, and existence. So, our Conscience is not condemning us, it's protecting us. It's trying to save us from destruction. We should listen to this policeman. But too many people tell him to, "Shut up!" And they press on, ignoring the

warnings. After some time, their Conscience is seared. (1 Timothy 4:2). They've said, "Shut up!" "Shut up!" "Shut up!" so many times, that he has. And they're not being warned any longer. They can commit evil, and go on their merry way, unconcerned, about the harm they've just done someone else. But they will never get away with it. They will die at the end of their life, along with everyone else, but they will also die a second time, and their existence will end in the Lake of Fire. Friends be warned. We must be as Paul was, and have '*A good Conscience void of offence, toward God, and toward man.*' (Acts 24:16).

Imagination

Imagination is a wonderful thing, because our whole lives are lived in our imagination. Sight, taste, touch, smell, and hearing, are only concerned with the right here, and right now, because we can't see, taste, touch, smell, or hear, yesterday, or tomorrow. So, if they were the only senses we had, right now would be our whole world. So, if I wanted to grow an apple tree, I'd go to the nursery in winter to buy one. But, when I look at them, they're all trunk and branches. There are no leaves, and certainly no apples on them. And if the only senses I had concerned the here and now alone, I'd say, "No, that's not what I want. I want a tree with apples on it, so I can pick them." And I'd go home without one. But this Sense called Imagination shows me a picture. This tree will flower in the Spring, and have apples on it in the Summer. I can imagine that, and I know I'll be able to pick apples off it, next Summer. So, my Imagination has made next Summer available to me right now, and I buy the tree. Imagination makes the future available to us today.

There's a ditty that says,
When I confess my sins to God,
He freely pours His grace in.
But, when I hear another's faults,
I want to smash his face in.

Some people feel like that. The things everyone else do wrong, are so terrible, but, the things they do wrong, really aren't that bad. Yes, they are. There's no *good* sin, and *bad* sin, it's all filthy rotten sin. So, what happens when I give someone the old 'one two'? If the only senses I had were sight, taste, touch, smell, and hearing, I would feel my fist hit his face, but it wouldn't hurt me, so I'd go on my way. But, because I have this sense called imagination, I see blood running from his nose and onto his shirt, and I think, "I know that's going to hurt." And I see him spit half a tooth onto the ground,

and I think, "That's going to need capping, or pulling out, and it's going to cost a bit." And I see by the look on his face that he's in pain.

So, my Imagination has allowed me to step out of my own little world, and into someone else's world, and know what they're feeling. That's one big leap for mankind, because it broadens my horizons. I realise then, that my little world is part of a bigger universe, and, everything I do, affects everyone else; and everything they do, affects me. Because of that, I feel some responsibility and accountability for my actions now. Am I my brother's keeper? It seems that I am.

So, if I'm a real Christian, after I had punched him, I would say to our friend, "I'm sorry, please forgive me?" and I'd offer my hand to him, to help him up. And if he's a real Christian he'd say, "Yes, I forgive you." and turn the other cheek, and say, "Hit this one too." And I would. Bang! Bang!

Our whole life is lived in our Imagination, and that's especially true of our Spiritual life, because the Spiritual world is another dimension, that our Physical senses cannot contact. The only way we can comprehend it, is by Faith, because Faith sees the evidence of God, in the Supernatural things He does among us, and that proves to us that He exists.

We read about the Garden of Eden in the beginning, and the New Jerusalem at the end, and imagination tries to picture them for us. The New Jerusalem is built on a mountain, nearly 2400 kilometres, by 2400 kilometres, by 2400 kilometres high. Each of the gates of the City is a huge pearl. The streets are paved with gold, and our mansions are among the trees. The River of Life flows from the top to the bottom. We all try to picture it, and all with a different picture; but 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us, *'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things that God has prepared, for those who love Him.'* If you love Him, He has prepared it for you. The glories of it are better than we could ever imagine, and it is worth so much more, than whatever we have to do, or whatever we have to give up, to get there.

Reason

We use Reasoning, to sum up all the available facts, and make a decision based on them. So, according to reason, $5 + 2 = 7$. But the Lord took 5 loaves, and 2 fish, and fed about 15,000 people. And it takes more than 5 loaves and 2 fish to do that. According to Reason, $5 + 2$ can only ever make 7, they can never make anything else. But, when Faith is added to the equation, $5 + 2 + \text{Faith} = 100$, or 1000, or anything else we want them to make.

Reason is good, because it's good to be logical, and Reason was given to us for a purpose. But the Bible doesn't tell us, 'The just shall live by Reasoning.' It says '*The just shall live by Faith,*' because, Faith is the evidence of things not seen. And, when reason sums up the available evidence to make a decision, it doesn't take into account this other evidence, that Faith sees, that Reasoning can never see. So, if we make all the decisions in our lives based on reasoning alone, we will be living far below our privileges as Christian's. So, Reason must always be in subjection to Faith.

Affections

Our Affections include such things as, our emotions, feelings, attractions, and desires. They were given to us to, '*Set your Affection on things above, not on things on the earth,*' as Colossians 3:2 tells us. When I was nineteen my girlfriend quoted, "*You shall love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength,*" to me. And, being a naive teenager, I asked, "How could I love Him more than I love you?" She was my best friend, and I didn't know Him. That's the problem we have, being born into a world that denies He exists. We don't know Him, to set our Affections on Him, so, we do what the Scriptures tell us *not* to do, and we set our Affections on something on this earth, normally someone. A boyfriend, a girlfriend, husband, wife, or even a pet. A cat, a dog, or a budgie. And, when we give them our whole hearted Affections, we also give them the adoration, and devotion, those Affections evoke. And we love that person, or that animal, with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And, we'd do anything for them, which we do. But that's not the way it's meant to be. We are supposed to give our Affection, and devotion, to the Lord.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam had the Lord to himself all day long, every day. But, the Lord said, "*It's not good that man should dwell alone.*" The Lord wanted Adam to have a wife. So, we should all have a wife, or husband, or even a loved pet for companionship, there's nothing wrong with that. But we do need to give the Lord the devotion He deserves. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." And, when we treasure another person above the Lord, we give them His place in our Affections. Then He gets second best, but He deserves better. He deserves our heartfelt Affections, and love. Not just, "I love You Lord." But a real longing to be near Him, to please Him, to hear His voice. And, when you do something wrong, a broken heartedness, because you have offended the One you love.

Memory

Memory is a wonderful thing, because, just as Imagination makes the future available to us today, so, Memory makes the past available to us today, and, we can learn from the past. So that means we don't have to make yesterday's mistakes again today. We can come into this brand-new day, and make a whole set of brand-new mistakes, as we normally do. Without Memory, we would be making the same mistakes over and over again, but having Memory allows us to make progress. And, what is the purpose of Memory Spiritually? We find the answer in Psalm 119:11. *'Your Word have I hid in my heart, that I sin not against you.'* Before we became Christians, sin separated us from the Lord, and, after we become Christians, our sin still interrupts our fellowship with Him. So, we have to make it right, for fellowship to be restored.

As young Christians, all we seem to know is that we mess up a lot. And we are continually sinning, breaking fellowship, repenting, restoring fellowship, sinning, breaking fellowship, repenting, restoring fellowship. It seems to be a cycle, through the day. But, as we mature, we do what the Bible says, and hide God's Word in our hearts. We remember it. And, as we go through the day, we can think, "No, I won't do that, because it offends Him. No, I won't do that because He doesn't like it. No, I won't do that because it's sin." And because we avoid continually breaking, and restoring, fellowship, we can have almost unbroken fellowship with Him, which is what we were created to do, and it can be almost Heaven on earth for us. So, memory gives us the opportunity to have that, while we are still this side of Eternity.

5.

Why have you made me like this?

The Lord created us individually, and He treats us as individuals, because each one of us is unique to Him. Having a Soul, gives us the ability to choose differently from those around us. So, we move among different circles of acquaintances, and have different life experiences, making our memories, hopes, tastes, and desires, all different from one another.

Our bodies can visibly express, what our Soul is feeling on the inside. The almost inexpressible Joy of love. The intense pain of grief. Laughter. Frustration. Anger. Pity.

Compassion.

Our Soul is able to know and understand the Lord and His Spiritual World, through our Spirit. Through our Body, Soul and Spirit, we express our Reverence for Him, and Worship Him. Our Body is the house our Soul and Spirit inhabit, and it will one day return to the dust from which it was made, but our Soul and Spirit will live on. We have the choice, of what to do in this life, and also, of what we will do in the hereafter. This life is not a fairy tale, and not everyone will live happily ever after. Each of us have the Free-will, to choose our own destiny. No one will have an excuse, but many will have regrets. You are given the choice. You must use it wisely. Because, you only get to choose once.

Further information on this subject can be found in Watchman Nee's book, 'The Spiritual Man,' and in Clarence Larkin's book, 'Dispensational Truth.'

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Ed.D.