

The Soul Profits Nothing



by: William R Mullins Jr
Renew The Mind Ministries

The Flesh/Soul Connection

Foundational Scriptures

(Joh 6:53) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

(Joh 6:54) Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

(Joh 6:55) For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

(Joh 6:56) He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

(Joh 6:57) As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

(Joh 6:58) This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

(Joh 6:59) These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

(Joh 6:60) Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

*(Joh 6:61) When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, **Doth this offend you?***

*(Joh 6:62) What **and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?***

(Joh 6:63) It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

*(Joh 6:64) **But there are some of you that believe not.** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.*

*(Joh 6:65) And he said, **Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.***

Much of the bible is written in allegorical expressions (*a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning*) that were never intended to be taking in the literal sense. Yet man, especially the carnally minded man, tends to receive the meaning of scriptures in human terms. Subsequently he or she often misses the spirit of the word, be it written or spoken.

When our Lord uses expressions such as: “the spirit is indeed willing but the flesh is weak” (*Mat 26:41*) or “the spirit is truly ready but the flesh is weak” (*Mar 14:38*), He is using a dichotomy (*a division or a contrast*) between the spirit and the flesh, and here He is speaking of one in the literal sense (*the spirit*) and the other in the figurative sense (*the flesh*).

This is a very important biblical precept to understand and receive because without this understanding it is impossible to comprehend the meaning of the above scriptures, nor can we understand the use of the expression within the other 136 times it is used within scriptures (*depending on which bible version you use*).

Within the old testament “the flesh” or “flesh” is making reference to the meat of the body which lays beneath the layer of skin which covers it.

When God formed Adam from the dust of the ground, and breathed the breath of lives into him, “man became a living soul (*nephesh - properly a breathing creature, from the word nâphash - a primitive root; to breathe; passively, to be breathed upon*)” but he had flesh (*Gen 2:21*).

When Jesus himself uses the expression “the flesh” the people “understood” Him to be using the term in the literal sense:

(Joh 6:52) The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

(Joh 6:60) Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

(Joh 3:6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(Joh 8:15) Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

Jesus spoke in this manner because the people of the time, having not yet received the Holy Spirit, were yet carnal and sensual! They did not have the capacity to truly understand the spiritual nature of what He was really saying because their minds were not yet renewed.

If we examine the use of the expression “the flesh” within the context of the new testament scriptures however, keeping in mind that albeit the gospels were written within the new testament period they often refer back to that which took place under the old covenant (*Jesus's life and ministry*) we see it being used almost exclusively within the context of an implied allegorical dichotomy, except when it is making reference to an old testament ideology.

For example:

When Jesus says the flesh is weak (*asthenēs - strengthless (in various applications, literally, or figuratively and morally): - more feeble, impotent, sick, without strength*) he is speaking of the flesh allegorically, in comparison to the quickened spirit, to paint a picture that the carnal mind could understand, at least in part.

Paul likewise uses this same technique, to help the carnally minded see, in part, the hidden mystery of “the flesh”:

(Rom 1:3) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh:

(Rom 1:4) And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Paul was being literal about Jesus being the seed of David “according to the flesh!

Both Mary and Joseph came physically through the seed of David and Jesus, in the flesh as the Son of Man, likewise came through that same lineage as foretold in bible prophecy.

What Jesus is saying in John 6:63 is that the flesh has no power in and of itself. He is saying that profits nothing through the regeneration of the spirit.

The flesh is just a shell which connects the soul to the kingdoms in which we live, both the natural and the spiritual.

The flesh like a automobile or a plane, or a train, if a soul is not operating it, it basically sits there and does nothing. The flesh is simply a tool which allows us to operate within the natural realm.

Therefore when Jesus says that He does not judge after the flesh He is actually saying that He does not judge the actions of the flesh He judges the soul who is driving it!

Watch This!

(Rom 2:28) For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

*(Rom 2:29) **But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.***

He who is born of the flesh is flesh and he who is born of the Spirit is spirit. He who is a true Jew is one who's heart (soul) is in the spirit, not in the letter.

What is a "soul"?

The soul is the result of God imparting breath to the human (*Gen 2:7*), in the blood, (*Lev 17:14*), limited to moving creatures, (*Gen 1:20*), distinguished from life, (*Gen 2:7*), from spirit and body, (*1 Thess.5:23—a sentient being*), figuratively, the person as viewed from the standpoint of his sensations or experiences, (*Rev.6:9*).

The soul stands separate from the whole being yet is a part of the whole being just as the persons of the Godhead stand separate from the whole while all being a part of the whole. One might say that the Father is the soul, the seat of emotions, thoughts, appetites and the will, the Son is the flesh, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Godhead.

Jesus said that He only speaks what the Father commands Him to speak:

(Joh 12:49) For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

And He only does what He sees the Father do:

(Joh 5:19) Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

(Joh 5:20) For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

Why?

Because He, Jesus, that is His soul, was completely subjugated to His spirit, which was subjugated to the Holy Spirit, who is subjected only to the Father!

Likewise our flesh can only do what our soul (will) desires it to do. We only speak when our soul wills us to speak, walk when it wills us to walk, and think what it wills us to think.

When one is in a coma, when our soul is not conscious in the natural realm, what does the flesh (*body*) do? Nothing!

It is believed by many, myself included, that when the soul is in such a state, we can see, hear, and even understand what is going on around us, but are unable to respond or react in the natural or physical realm.

The flesh (body) can be totally functional and 100% operational, yet unresponsive to sensual stimuli.

When many people make a dramatic recovery from some type of trauma done to the body (flesh), it is often said that the person “willed” their recovery. I agree!

When a person is strong of spirit the soul likewise can be equally strong if it, if we, give our will over to our spirit.

The Spiritual Man

When we are saved, albeit we are made new spiritually perfect creations, we (*souls*) are still spiritual babies who have yet to learn how to eat, think, and walk as spirit beings. We (*our souls*) are still VERY much natural (*carnal, sensual*) because that is all we have ever known. We have spent our entire lives living in the flesh!

When we receive Christ, when our sins are forgiven, when our Father gives us a new heart, and a new spirit, and places His Spirit within us (*Eze 36:26*), we (*our souls*) are empowered to change from carnal beings into spiritual beings, if and when we will our spirit to conform to the will of the Son, which is the will of the Father, through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

How do we know and do the will of our Father?

How are we transformed into the image and likeness of the First-fruit of the new creation?

Through the unction of the Holy Spirit!

The Father ↔ The Son ↔ The Holy Spirit ↔ our spirit ↔ our soul ↔ our body ←|→The World
The Godhead *The Born Again Believer*

The more we can block out what we receive from the natural world, the less we come to rely on our natural senses, the more we can focus on our spiritual senses and receive the things of God through the spiritual world or realm.

The apostle Paul instructs us to not be conformed to (*not be fashioned after*) the world (*age*), rather to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (*Rom 12*) from carnally minded to spiritually minded.

There are MANY Christians, myself included, who understand this truth in theory, so to speak, but have not as yet learned how to put it fully into practice.

That is because like anything else in life this too is a learning process, it is a discipline!

For our flesh to be brought under the control of the Father we must first will ourselves to conform to the will of Christ, as revealed to us through His Holy Spirit.

You see it is not our flesh which becomes transformed, the flesh profits nothing, it is rather our soul which must undergo the change.

The Father is perfect and He is spirit (*Joh 4:24*).

The Son is perfect (*He was perfect in the flesh and is now likewise perfect as spirit*).

The Holy Spirit is perfect because He, like Jesus, speaks not of himself but whatsoever He hears (*Joh 16:13*) from the Son (*the Word*), and only does the will of the Son which is the will of the Father.

Therefore, when we (souls) follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will naturally do the will of the Son, which is the will of the Father, and we supernaturally do not to the things of the age (*world*) because our flesh can do nothing on it's own but does do whatsoever we will it to do.

This is the process by which our flesh is brought under subjection to the will of the Father!

This is the way the spiritual man works out his salvation and matures as a living soul!

The Snare Of The Enemy

Every trapper puts bait into their snare. They put something within it or around it to draw their prey into their trap. This has been his tactic from the beginning. It is how he tried to trap Jesus and how he got Adam and Eve to enter into his snare.

(Pro 23:1) When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:

(Pro 23:2) And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.

(Pro 23:3) Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

(Pro 23:4) Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

(Pro 23:5) Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

(Pro 23:6) Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

(Pro 23:7) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

(Pro 23:8) The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

This warning is made to those who “are given to appetite”.

Now the context in which this is written is that of the unsaved, degenerated soul. In fact the word “appetite” is the Hebrew word נפש *nephesh*, which is the same Hebrew word that is translated into the word soul!

Therefore what is being said here is if one is given to the desires of the carnal soul it is better to put a knife to ones throat than to set your eyes on that which is not. That is to say that this meat is deceitful meat and can mislead you because it is desirous. It is sensuously pleasing.

*(Gen 3:6) And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that **it was pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree **to be desired to make one wise**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

The tree was the bait the serpent used to snare Eve!

It was sensuously desirable because it was pleasing to the eyes and it appealed to her natural desire to become more wise, even to become more Godlike through the knowledge of good from evil.

It is human nature to seek the knowledge and wisdom of the age (world), and it is our new spiritual nature to seek the knowledge and wisdom of God, and the enemy uses this desire to snare us.

The attack on Eve's mind (soul) was a very subtle one at first. He began by luring her into the conversation with a half truth, that God said she could eat of every tree in the garden. Then, when Eve had taken the bait, the serpent rationalized away the truth that death would follow the transgression and that God didn't want her to eat the fruit because He did not want her to become more like Him.

You see Eve did not consider what was set before her, nor did she consider the one who had set it before her, nor did she truly consider what God had said. She set her eyes on a lie, took the bait and was snared.

Satan continues to work the same way today!
There is no new thing under the sun (Ecc 1:9).

And many people today, Christians included, become snared by his dainty meats and led down the path of destruction just as Eve did.

Today the bait that the enemy uses to draw people into his snare is the very same bait that he used to trap eve, the knowledge of good and evil, the law!

There is no new thing under the sun!

You see as it was in the time of Jesus, it is the rulers who set deceitful meat before the people and the people ate of it because they trusted them as legal authorities.

But what was Jesus's rebuke of these rulers of the people?

(Mat 23:2) Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

*(Mat 23:3) All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; **but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.***

*(Mat 23:4) **For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.***

An even more grievous indictment is recorded in Luke chapter 11 along with an even more serious warning:

*(Luk 11:34) The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is **single**, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is **full of darkness.***

*(Luk 11:35) **Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.***

(Luk 11:36) If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Jesus tells us to keep our eye, our vision, single and clear, and uncomplicated!

(CLV) Lk 11:34-36

*The lamp of the body is your eye. Whenever, then, your eye may be single, your whole body, also, is luminous, yet if ever it may be wicked, your body also, is dark. **Be noting, then, that the light in you is not darkness.** If, then, your whole body is luminous, not having any part dark, luminous will be the whole, as whenever a lamp, in its flashing, may be illuminating you.*

The Greek word “single” (ἁπλοῦς – haplous) means; properly *folded together*, that is, *single* (figuratively *clear*), and the English phrase “full of darkness” (σκοτεινός – skoteinos) means; *opaque*, that is, (figuratively) *benighted*: - dark, while the word “darkness” (σκότος - skotos) in and of itself means; *shadiness*, that is, *obscurity* (literally or figuratively) and comes from the word (σκία – skia) which means; shade or a shadow (literally or figuratively darkness of *error* or an *adumbration*).

Jesus is telling us to be noting or taking heed that our eye be single, properly or singly folded together so that our vision is clear, as opposed to the “evil eye” which is not properly folded together (multiple folds) and which obscures the light and allows us to see only a shade or shadow of the truth.

This is a clear allegorical dichotomy of a single minded (spiritual) person and a double minded (carnal) person, the latter having his or vision obscured and being in error and having some part of or being full of darkness.

When a person adds or subtracts from scriptures, when a ruler sets dainty deceitful meats before us, when we are given to the appetites of the remnant of our old nature and we do not consider the whole counsel of God within His holy scriptures, we allow darkness to enter into us.

The question here is, How Great Is That Darkness? (Mat 6:23)

None of us are perfect in our doctrines. We all have misunderstanding to one degree or another. Subsequently we all have some level of darkness within us, to one degree or another.

How do we know how great that darkness is?

We know by how long it takes to get out of it!

If we are full of darkness it is more difficult to see than if we are in darkness in part. That is to say that it is easier to see during twilight than it is at midnight!

The key is to remain humble enough to ALWAYS consider that what we have partaken of might be deceitful meat. We should NEVER think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Rom 12:3), ALWAYS remembering that God has given EVERY man the measure of faith (Rom 12:3) and that our God, who is not a respecter of persons, has not set one any higher than another, albeit we all have differing offices, diversities of gifts, operations and administrations, Christ is the head!

*(2Co 8:10) **And herein I give my advice:** for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.*

(2Co 8:11) Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

(2Co 8:12) For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

(2Co 8:13) For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened:

(2Co 8:14) But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:

(2Co 8:15) As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.

Be Blessed!