

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”
Hebrews 4:9-13

I want to draw my text out of verse 12, “The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.” One of the functions of the Word of God is that it is able to divide asunder, or separate distinctly and clearly, soul and spirit. You cannot do that intellectually or philosophically. It takes this blessed Book to divide them asunder. The Bible is powerful enough and sharp enough to accomplish it. One of the functions of the Word of God is to separate

that which is of the soul and that which is of the spirit. If we don't get them separated we will do many things soulishly which should have been done spiritually. We will not know the difference between the spiritual and the soulish. We need the Word of God to help us in this day and hour with this problem.

I may be seeing clearer than I used to, but it appears to me that our churches are being inundated with soulishness and the spiritual is being forced out. That would account for much of the error and the emptiness where our doctrine is orthodox but our practice is going downhill. We have operated soulishly, because we did not divide asunder soul and spirit.

The Bible makes clear in I Thessalonians 5:23 that we are a three-part being, and it lists them in order of priority. In this prayer of Paul asking God to preserve the believers it implores, "...your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." That is about as simple as you can get, isn't it? Many people say, "body, soul, and spirit". That is how the world sees it, but they have it backwards. The Bible order is spirit, soul, and body. We need to understand that order because the devil operates in the reverse order. When churches copy the devil's order - working

the body, hoping to get to the soul and accomplish something spiritual - it is no wonder that we have a mess. We have copied the devil's line of thought and tried to sanctify it with right Bible doctrine, but the practice is all wrong.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 asks, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." You say, "Wait a minute. There are only two named there." That is right, but there are three. You are to glorify God in your spirit and in your body. We have a body with which we are to glorify God. We have a spirit with which we are to glorify God. We are a soul. The soul is to use the spirit and the body to function properly.

I don't want to get technical, but I want to promote an understanding of what is right and what is wrong around us. I Thessalonians lists spirit, soul, and body. I Corinthians says you, the soul, need to use your spirit and your body to glorify God. You need to know how to function in both realms.

The three are clearly spelled out by what happens to each at the time of death. When a person dies, the body lays around several days so

that everyone can look at it; then we bury it. We know that is the body, not the person. We know that, for the believer, absent from the body is present with the Lord. We know that the lost person dies and in hell lifts up his eyes, being in agony and torments, according to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Himself. So, the person goes either to heaven or hell; the body goes in the grave; and according to Ecclesiastes, the spirit returns unto God who gave it.

The soul, or the person, goes to heaven or hell. There are many people who would like to say that everyone goes to heaven because the spirit goes to God who gave it. No! The lost go to hell, their spirit goes back to God, and their body gets left here. When you die you, as a three-part being, become divided. But God has things prepared for us over on the other side. We have a tabernacle not made with hands to care for things until we get our body back in a resurrected form. The lost person ends up as a bodiless soul, suffering torments as if they actually had a body. It is a frightening thing.

Our body is the agent we use to communicate and it is what makes us world-conscious. You have heard of people who say, "Well, preacher, I may not be there on Sunday, but I will be with you in spirit." That is because they

are taking their body somewhere else. If we don't have a person's body around, we won't know they are there. You would not be able to hear me if I did not have a body and I could not communicate with you. I am to use my body to glorify God.

I have a spirit that makes me God-conscious. That is how I communicate with God and God communicates with me. The spirit has to do with God.

I am the soul, -that is, self-consciousness. The soul involves the mind, the personality, the psyche, and the personal force or personal magnetism. It gets into the realm of self in the sense of self-determination, self-control, self-centeredness, and selfishness. Our souls are not a pretty sight when you start thinking about what we are in ourselves.

Satan is unable to operate through the spirit to get to us; but he can make direct approaches to the soul, and he does make them through the body. Analyze how he tempted Eve. It was a double temptation; it had to do with soul and with body. There was not anything spiritual about his temptation.

God approaches us through the spirit. If we do not know how to operate spiritually we cannot worship. "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John

4:24) We must worship in spirit, not in soul. That which is of the mind and the intellect and the emotions and soulishness is false worship; it is not right worship. That does not mean that you leave your mind out of it, but it means that is not the center of your worship. Intellectualism does not produce right worship. Emotionalism does not produce right worship. We must worship in spirit and in truth if we are going to worship God.

If we understand soul we will be able to better understand the matter of the spirit. We will let the Word of God start dividing asunder between soul and spirit.

We have a problem in our part of the country. We have such soulish efforts and such soulish worship, that it is producing rottenness in fundamental circles. Most don't understand why. They say, "They have been exposed to the truth." But the means by which they were exposed was soulish. They say that you can use soulish music with Bible words to accomplish God's work. What a strange conglomeration that is! They don't understand separating soul and spirit.

Revelation 18:9 talks about the harlot church and the beast of Babylon, located and headquartered there in the city of seven hills, Rome. Not only is there the harlot but also the mother of harlots, for there are many other harlots

that are daughters. It is the only religion of Babylon; we know it as Roman Catholicism with all the spin-offs that came from it. God never intended that Rome be reformed - it should have been rejected all along, and was by true Bible believers. However, there is going to be a revival of Rome and its operation, and these harlots that have spun off will be coming back in. These ecumenical movements shall succeed, sad to say, for God already recorded it. It caused John to marvel when he looked at it. Verses 9-13 read,

“And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her,” (in other words, they have mixed church and state together,) “shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come.’ And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: the merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyne wood, and all manner

vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.”

She will reintroduce slavery and will barter in slaves on an international basis. The kings of the earth will bewail that the one who maintained the slave trade gets judged. Not only will there be slavery; but there will also be the souls of men that they own, control, oversee, and use to accomplish various things.

Slavery is control over men and women's bodies. But here we have control of the souls of men and women. They own and control them and can barter in them just as slaves were dealt with in the physical realm. Who in the world is capturing men's souls, owning and controlling them, so that they can sell them off and use them? Think on this now, because we are moving rapidly into this realm. Our churches need to be alerted to it because we operate so soulishly that we are going to be swallowed up by it.

What can you do if you have 100 souls to put to work? Under slavery as we knew it in this

country, there were Covenanters and Huguenots that were sold into slavery; but only their bodies were enslaved. Their souls were not enslaved. But in this case they will get the very souls of the people. It is a religious organization working with politicians that will accomplish this. This is a prophecy that we don't hear much about, but it is a Biblical prophecy and we are going to have to face it. If the Lord tarries His coming, we will be moving in that direction. Are we ready to deal with it? Do we know how to divide asunder soul and spirit? Do we understand why anyone would want someone's soul?

In I Corinthians 15:45-46 we read, "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul;". When God made Adam, He made him a soul. He gave him a body, and he had a spirit, but God made him a soul. That is what the Bible says, and it is best to go with the Bible whether you understand it or not. The first Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam, (that refers to Jesus) was made a quickening spirit. Notice the contrast between our great-grandfather, the first Adam, soul and soulish, which we inherit from him; and the last Adam, a quickening spirit, we become part of by means of the second birth. The Word of God divides them asunder - soul and spirit. Adam had life; he was a soul. Jesus, the

last Adam, was a spirit. He not only had life, but He could give life; He was quickening. This is far more than the first Adam.

I want you to see why the first few chapters of Genesis are so hated and are going to continue under violent attack in these last days. There is a fear people will believe these first chapters and understand how their soul is being purchased, and taken over, and manipulated by various curious terminology and philosophies. Genesis 2:7 says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." That is what you are; that is what Adam became. That is exactly what is said in I Corinthians. You are a soul; that is why you are to glorify God in your spirit and in your body which are God's. Learn how to use your spirit and body. Learn how to stay blameless in your spirit.

Do you know what kinds of sins the spirit can commit? Do you know what kind of sins your body commits? Do you know what kind of sins you, in soul, commit? We need the Bible to divide this asunder so that we stay alert, because sometimes those that have trouble in their soul and spirit pick on the sins of the body. Others say, "My sins may be in the body but I don't have the ones you have," and they go into sins of the soul

and the spirit.

Who has the worst sins? Our neighbors. Whatever they have done is worse than what we have done. Whatever you have committed is bad; whatever I have committed is minor. We adjust these areas if we are not careful.

I want you to see a little of what it means when Adam became a living soul. I want you to see some of what he lost - not actually lost in potential, but lost in practice - when he sinned. Genesis 1:28 reads, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..." Adam and Eve, as living souls, had such ability and authority to subdue the entire earth. God told them: you have what it takes to subdue the planet - not just the garden, but the earth.

It was a little easier for them than it is now. First, they didn't have others conflicting in will with what they wanted to do. Second, the continents had not been divided; they were all one land mass so it wasn't spread out as much. Third, creation was not groaning under the curse of sin. Even considering these three things, to subdue the whole earth would be a huge job.

Not only were they to subdue it, they were to have dominion over the fish of the sea. Wouldn't the fishermen like that today? "I believe

today I will call up, by soul power, bass to come by my boat. Only those that are over 10 inches long." The next day, "I believe I want the trout to come my way."

They were to have control over the fish of the sea. And not only the fish of the sea, but also to have dominion over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Their original soul authority was to subdue, to control, and to oversee fish, fowl, and every living thing on the whole planet. I would just like to be able to control the mosquitoes on one acre! Some of you would like to have dominion over just one 12 pointed deer in the fall of the year for about 15 minutes. They had a potential in soul power to operate - not in little areas like we think, but in vast areas. God created them to function that way.

Not only did they have that soul authority, but consider also the matter of their mind and vocabulary and speech. Genesis 2:19 reads, "And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." He could look at an animal and name it. Whatever he named it was a proper name; it stuck. He didn't get cow and lion mixed up. He gave right names to the animals as

they came along. Have you any idea how long it takes a scientist to come up with a name for some new species? It may take them weeks, involving computer searches to make sure they have not already used that name. But Adam just looked at them and said, "That is what this is, that is what that is...." Can you imagine the mind and vocabulary he must have had in his un-fallen state? Such intelligence and ability with speech were part of the original soul powers.

A third area to consider is in verse 15 of chapter two, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." God fixed up a garden and said, "Now, dress it." That is, organize this in such a way that it is displayed for beauty. Adam knew how to lay out those flowers, shrubs, bushes, and trees to pattern and bloom.

I worked a bit as a gardener in my youthful days. One of the ladies I worked for was elderly and could no longer maintain her flower gardens. She told me that she had had one disappointment in her life with her gardens. She had a daughter who was married there in the gardens; when it came the day for the wedding there was not a flower in bloom. She found out it was the only week she didn't have something blooming. From the early spring until the late fall she had different

things blooming, except for that one week. She felt a failure though she had studied this and worked on it. There is a lot to putting in flower gardens and natural gardens, -getting a sense of beauty in them.

God gave the management of this garden to Adam and Eve. The Garden of Eden wasn't any backyard garden; it was big enough that it took four rivers to water it. Consider the area that is watered by one of your local rivers and multiply that by four. Some of these rivers are mighty rivers. They have their roots in places such as Iraq, near Kuwait, running all the way up near the Turkish border down into Ethiopia in Africa. This Garden of Eden was not any little 500-acre farm. That is big for a garden. Can you imagine the effort involved in dressing that for beauty? And then they were to keep it, that is, once they organized it and set it up they were to keep it trim and maintained as well as protect it from any enemy that might want in. (One did slither in one day, didn't he?) I am wanting you to glimpse the potential in an unbridled soul.

The temptation that was given to Eve, according to chapter 3 verse 5, among other things, included, "Ye shall be as gods". That is small "g". Modern perversions of the Bible show the ignorance of so-called scholars when they take

small “g” gods, that is, the demons that the pagans worship, and they make it a capital G, singular God, like our God. They cannot tell the difference between what the pagans worship and who we worship. Then they want to pass for Bible scholars. I have had people say, “Well, it really doesn’t make that much difference.” It makes me wonder about them! You see, man was made a little lower than the angels, and while he had all of this potential, the temptation was to try to go a little higher than God wanted him to be. Just seek to be a little more than God ever intended you to be. You don’t know anyone like that today, do you? One that is trying to rise above where God put them? That was foundational in this temptation. This whole potential was seen in Adam.

We saw how he fell, fell, fell. He did not stumble, he did not just slip, he fell greatly in his attempt to leap upwards. He didn’t lose all these potentials. Satan had aimed for his soul and all the potential there by approaching both soul and body. But Satan failed, because God masked it with a soul that became fleshly and self-centered rather than yielded to God. That is why Satan would like for Christians to be self-centered rather than yielded to God. He is getting them right back in line with where he got Adam and Eve, and he will

mask what their potential is.

There is a battle going on that started in Genesis chapters 1-3. There are some deep factors going on in our churches in the struggles for the souls of men and how they will operate. The aim of religion is not to make people as wicked as they can be. I am talking about religion other than that of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is to overcome the flesh so as to deliver that soul power back into action where it can be tapped and directed by the enemy of our God to get at that hidden soul energy that God masked with the flesh.

The soul religion will tell you to abstain from meat. In other words, overcome your flesh. Abstain from marriage, abstain from this, abstain from that and see if you can get relief in some areas, -such areas as telepathy, soul power, soul travel, mind control, hypnosis, high energy levels, or visualization to accomplish things. These things are being taught in our schools, -even Christian schools! They teach how to pray and be better in athletics. They are taught in sales training, "If you can visualize your goal, then you can reach it." That is soul power. That is not the vision that the Bible talks about. Healings, prophecies, clairvoyance, materialization, and other such things can be accomplished by soul power exercised here and there. From time to

time, Satan with his forces, by means of religion, is able to get some of these people functioning and get that soul power going where he can direct it against those that would worship the God of glory.

God has always worked through the spirit to get to the soul. Not soul to soul, but spirit to soul. Satan still approaches souls head-on to influence and use them. As Christians, we must choose whether we want to use God's means of reaching people, through the spirit, or Satan's methods of soul power to reach people. If I use my mind, my intellect, your emotions, or my emotions then I am copying the devil's method: my soul to your soul, instead of operating through the God of glory and the Word of God, through your spirit and the Holy Spirit, into your soul.

It is a matter of approach. That is why this so-called "gospel rock" is a tool of the devil. I don't care what the words are, it is operating soul-to-soul and bypassing the spirit. The same thing is done in a whole variety of areas not quite as obvious. We must divide asunder between soul and spirit. Jesus taught and demanded that, "Except a man deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me, he cannot be my disciple." You can't follow Jesus or have Him until you take the first step and deny self and all that the soul can accomplish. Yield yourself to God, who is spirit,

to operate spiritually for the glory of God. As long as a person starts out soulish and continues in a soulish way, he will never get close to Jesus. He might get other things, but he won't get close to Him; and without Him we have nothing. That is why He demanded it. We must take caution against soul function. We need to learn how to avoid the use of soul energy.

Years ago, at the end of the preaching service, two women came up while we were singing the invitational hymn. I asked them, "For what did you come?" Now, you are not supposed to say that; you are supposed to say, "Oh, it is so good you responded to the Lord." I wanted to find out if it had been soulish pull. They said, "We thought you wanted us to come." So I called my wife. I said, "These two people came. They thought I wanted them to come. I can't help them, but if you can help or do anything for them, do it." Then I dismissed the service.

You say, "That is all you did?" They had come because they felt something from me pulling them; they had not come because they were concerned about Jesus, or the God of glory, or their sin. I went home and examined, trying to figure what I had done that might have let a little soulishness out.

We could have produced some counterfeits

in those two women. We could have slipped them on through with a profession. They were ready to do anything I wanted. They weren't too concerned about what Jesus wanted, but they would have done what I wanted.

That is soulish crowd manipulation. Some people have that ability to dominate crowds, but just where does God fit in? Just because a man has strong soul power, does that make him a preacher? Rather, ask yourself, is he able to lay the Word out so that God can stir some hearts? I am not against excited preaching - I love it - but there is a difference between being excited in your manner over the things of God, and using excitement just as a politician, or a Muslim, or anyone else would to draw people in. I have heard Muslims preach, and although I could not understand a word of it, it reminded me of how some others preach who claim to be Bible preachers. They displayed the same emotions and the same style. It is frightening when people have to ride on style rather than God stirring the heart.

Do we want to go God's way, or man's way? Jesus said, "The flesh profiteth nothing." Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh, is flesh." That is all you get. The Bible says if you sow to the flesh, you, of the flesh, reap corruption. That is pretty simple.

Soul energy, the mind, the intellect, the personality, emotions, and psychology do produce results; but they are false, temporary results by their very nature. You can produce brokenness but it won't last. You can produce a repentance, but it won't last. You can produce a false conversion, a false faith, or a false joy but it will only be temporary.

People who understand the use of soul energy know how to pump a crowd up and get them excited, but they will probably hit rock bottom in a day or two, and maybe by sunrise. That is soulish. People say, "My! What a great preacher that was. Wonder why I feel so low?" The Bible says, whatsoever God doeth it shall be forever. The soulish does not last. You can produce a counterfeit peace, a counterfeit satisfaction, but it is only temporary. You can produce a counterfeit revival, but it won't last. History is full of examples. When we allow souliness to take over, we are going to fill up with the false, the counterfeit, and the temporary. It is like drugs, the dose that it took to get the high has to be repeated again and again until finally the dosage must be increased just to maintain it.

If you aim your prayers towards individuals you are no more than a Hindu, or a Muslim, or someone involved in witchcraft. Jesus said when

you pray it is to be, "Our Father, which art in Heaven..." We lay our requests before the throne of God; we don't pile our prayers on top of people.

You see, religion wants to tap soul power in prayer. Do you realize that religion is used by hundreds of thousands, and sometimes millions, praying at a certain time, about a certain matter, where they aim their prayers in a certain direction and literally shatter governments here on the earth? They change the economies of countries. That is why they want to harness souls of men; there is a force there, but it is not the force of our God. You can get those temporary results, but they are negative by nature and are demonically assisted.

When it comes to preaching based on ability or organization for results, that alone is soulish. But if you come presenting the Word of God as God has burdened the heart, and you stand helpless unless God operates, then perhaps God will see fit to operate through someone's spirit and do something permanent.

The soul and soul power is affected by environment. If the service isn't just right and the lights are not right and the crowd is not right and the music is not right, then some cannot preach. The soul is affected by the environment, but the spirit affects the environment and changes it.

Which do we need in our churches - temporary or permanent, soulish or spiritual? When it comes to music, do we have that which wants to touch the body, which wants to touch the soul - the two areas through which Satan approaches people? Do we want to have that which will move the crowds by its very nature, or do we want that which will please God, and that which He will put his blessing upon?

What about the services that we hold? Are they designed to appeal to the soul or to the spirit? What about our witnessing? How do we approach it? How about our Bible study, our meditation, the other areas in which we operate, -is it soulish by nature or is it spiritual by nature? Divide it asunder and consider what the results will be.

There will be miracles in the last days but they will not be of God. There is enough that it would even deceive the elect, if it were possible. There will be strange miracles. Some of them are recorded in the book of Revelation and others referred to in II Thessalonians and Matthew. Where is the force for that? People say that a miracle must be of God. That is not true at all. You tell me how a person can sit down and bring in a bear when they want it. The Indian witch doctors could do that because they had learned by religion how to release soul power. They had

demonic assistance.

I don't want to tell you too much because some people might decide to go off into soul power. There is a whole lot that has been done down through the centuries that God stopped before it went too far, - before they got it fully organized. But there is coming a time when the lid is coming off and He that is restraining and holding things back is going to be taken out of the way and it will cut loose. The souls of men will be organized as they never have been before and they will be treated like merchandise. When the organizer of it, the harlot and the harlots that are the offspring of the whore of Babylon, get demolished at that point in God's judgment the kings of the earth are going to wring their hands and say, "What are we going to do when we can't call in soul power to accomplish our goals, when we can't get slaves to do our physical labor, when we can't get gold and silver to pile up our wealth?" It is coming and most of our people are so blind that they will think, "There must be something to this". There may be, but it is not what you want. It is what you need to avoid.

When you operate spiritually you can move into deadness and produce life because the last Adam was a quickening spirit who could give life. The first was only a living soul and he had to have

the proper environment to be able to operate. When he lost the Garden of Eden, and he lost it because of sin, he was hindered. In I Corinthians chapter 2 Paul said, I can speak with wisdom of words, with this and that, but I am not going to use any soul ability, I am going to work in the power of God. I want it to be of the Holy Spirit working spiritually in your souls, -that is what will last. Jesus himself said that there was no fallen nature whatsoever in Him, but He chose not to operate by soul power. He said, "What I do is not of myself, but of my Father." He submitted to operating through God, through the spirit, to the souls of men, rather than His soul to their souls.

We have tried to shortcut it, but we have short-circuited the whole system and we have just about burned out. I am not against what God gives us, but we better know what it is for and how to use it or we are going to slide further and further away.

It used to be that churches could say, there is something wrong with that music, or with that preaching, or about that person. Now, people say, "But they are not saying anything wrong." That is right, but there is something wrong. It is soulish, that is what is wrong. Dr. James Stewart wrote and spoke about the soulish. He saw it coming way back then. Today most people do not even

know what it means to be soulish or the danger of it.

We must get back to the Word of God that is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.