

SSB - WEEK 3.

The spirit.

Read Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

"then God said "let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

In these verses we read that God created man "in His own image".

This is a critical key point – **WHY?**

Read Genesis: 1 26-27 again.

Then ask these questions:

- What is the image of God?
- What does He look like?

In John 4:24 Jesus tells us: "God is Spirit"

God is not flesh but Spirit. **That is His image.** When the Word of God tells us that God created man according to His image, it means that **in addition to body and soul man also had that which is the image of God i.e. spirit.** In order to bring more understanding to the phrase "in His image" let's look at another scripture where this phrase occurs.

Genesis 5:1-3 is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

This passage says that Adam begat (to procreate as the father) a son "in his own likeness, after his image".

As Adam was, so his son was i.e. as Adam had hands so Seth had hands. As Adam had feet so Seth had feet etc. As Adam was body and soul so Seth was body and soul.

Body and soul are enough for what mankind experiences daily, through our five senses as a natural man.

Mankind can't even begin to draw near to God without the Holy Spirit's help. The natural man cannot submit himself to God until a supernatural work of grace is done in his life, called "new birth" in John 3:3-5. When it comes to experiencing God, like Adam before the Fall, our spirit needs to experience the "new birth".

This can only happen when Holy Spirit comes into our spirit and makes us alive to God.

God is Spirit and to communicate and have relationship with Him, your spirit must become alive, conscious, to God.

READ: Ephesians 2:5 and 1 Corinthians 2: 14

When it comes to understanding the things of God, we need a new spirit. Ephesians 2: 5 "I was dead but now I'm alive with Christ."

I Corinthians 2:14: "The person without the Spirit (the natural man) does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

In this passage, the word translated "natural" is the Greek adjective "psuchikos", which comes from the noun "psuchi" which means soul.

So, psuchikos means "a soul man" i.e. a man with body and soul only:

According to that passage a man who is only body and soul "does not receive the things of the Spirit of God".

To receive "the things of the Spirit of God", to communicate and have a relationship with God you need the appropriate receiver i.e. spirit.

The passage also says: "nor can he (the man of body and soul) know the things of the Spirit of God because they are spiritually discerned".

The man of body and soul [psuchikos/carnal] cannot know the things of God [2Cor 4:1] for the simple reason that they have to do with the Spirit. Since fallen man lacks a reborn spirit he cannot know the things of God.

Do you realise how unique you are as a New Creation?

What does being a New Creation mean to you?

You get to know God and have a relationship with Him through your spirit.

- Adam had body, formed from the dust of the ground.
- A soul that gave life to his body.
- A spirit to have relationship with God.

Bear in mind that death means the absence of a form of life....

Adam (mankind) was body, soul and spirit before he ate, but continued to have body and soul after he ate. What was lost for him that day?

It was the spirit that God gave him.

That's why Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, says: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This verse tells us at least two things. The soul and spirit can be divided, and the division of soul and spirit is something that only God can discern. Rather than focusing on something we cannot know for sure, it is better to focus on the Creator, who has made us "fearfully and wonderfully" (Psalm 139:14).