

SING IN THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

What really happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command? God had warned that disobedience would result in death (Genesis 2:16-17), but did Adam instantly fall dead? No, he lived to be 930 – and yet, he did die! Since man is a spirit-being, it was into man's spirit that death entered. His spirit didn't cease to exist, for spiritual death is not non-existence, but rather separation from God. Every human being since Adam is born with this condition. Only salvation can cure it!

Man was created by God as a three-fold being:

SPIRIT **the inner man;** the part that knows God and will exist eternally in either Heaven or Hell; the part that gets saved

SOUL **the mind;** the intellect (thoughts), emotions (temperament, feelings, attitudes, moods), and will (choices, decisions)

BODY **the outer man;** the external or visible house in which man's invisible spirit and soul reside; the part operating our senses



In a **SPIRITUALLY DEAD** person, the SPIRIT is alienated from God because of sin. Unless he makes a choice to change it, this is an eternal condition! Since the spirit is dead, the SOUL is now in charge. Led by his intellect, emotions and will, this person cannot understand spiritual concepts, for they are foreign to him. His BODY becomes merely a tool for acting out his lusts and passions. This man is truly “mortal,” which means “death-doomed” or “Satan-ruled.”



In a **SPIRITUALLY ALIVE** person, the SPIRIT is back in fellowship with God because of salvation. And unless he makes a choice to change it, this also is an eternal condition! Since the spirit is alive, the SOUL is not allowed to be in charge. There is an ongoing war to subjugate the natural mind and body to God's Spirit now dwelling in the redeemed human spirit. (Romans 6:11-13, 7:22-23, 8:13-14) His BODY is offered as a “living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1) to do the will of God, and not allowed to fulfill fleshly lusts. This man is truly “immortal,” which means “NOT death-doomed”!

Basically everything that lures, drives, attracts, convinces, persuades or motivates you is generated at the **intellectual** or **emotional** levels of the mind (soul). Your decision as to how to react is then made in your mind by the **will**. The human **will** is the most awesome feature of the soul, for it determines your destiny. Everything we do in a church service is designed to “break through” the will of man!

Satan is powerless as far as the **SPIRIT** of a man is concerned (because it is eternal like him). He cannot force you to be lost – only you can make that decision. But Satan attacks the **SOUL (MIND)** which makes our decisions about eternal things. Even when he tempts the **BODY**, he is really only trying to get to the **SOUL**.

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Worship, praise and prayer are all about pulling down strongholds, which are really MINDSETS or PARADIGMS. And you cannot do this on a physical or mental level – it happens on a spiritual level.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but **mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds**;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- Music performed by the body connects with the body (i.e. rhythm, volume, etc.).
- Music performed by the soul connects with the soul (i.e. emotion, passion, etc.).
- Music performed by the spirit (in worship to God) is the only thing that has the power to connect with the spirit. When it connects with the “alive spirit” of a saved person, it will make them long to worship. When it connects with the “dead spirit” of an unsaved person, it will make them sense the vacuum that wants to be filled with God!

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It is important to sing with excellence, because that connects with the understanding (the gateway to the spirit). There is nothing wrong with that. But to affect eternal results, we must sing with the spirit!

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