

Prospering

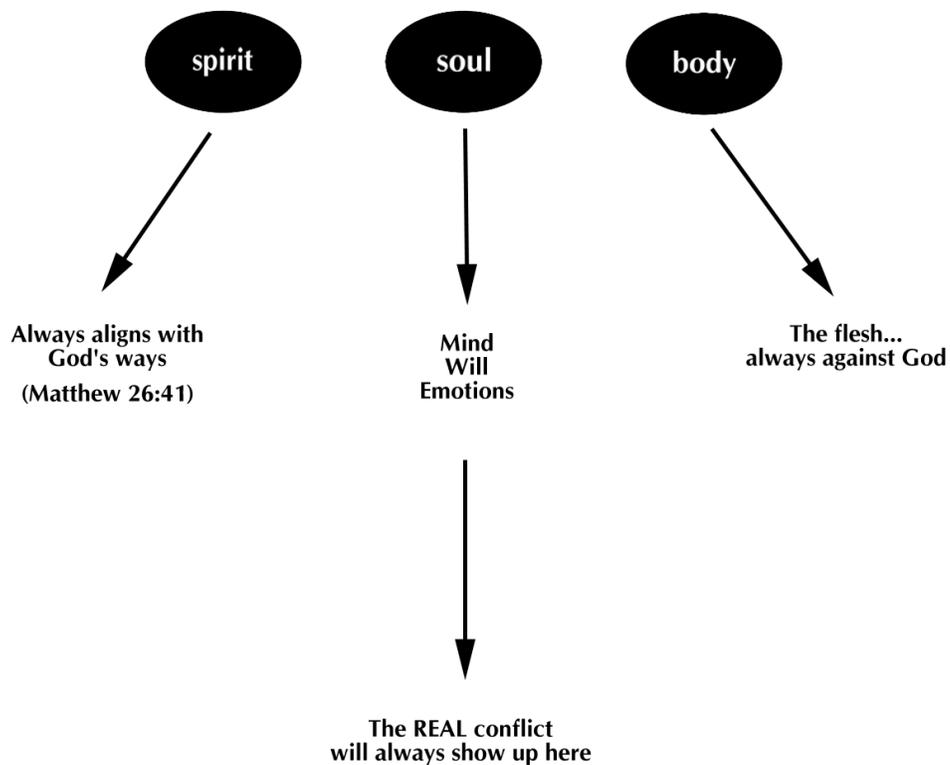
in your soul

Scripture basis:

3 John 2 – Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. NKJV

Prospering in all things depends upon how well our soul is prospering.

In Genesis 1, God made man and woman in his own image. One of the attributes of God is that he is made up of three distinct parts or persons. The trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person or part of God has a distinct purpose. Like God we are made of three parts; spirit, soul, and body. Each part also has a distinct purpose.



The Way of the Spirit and the Way of the Flesh

Our spirit will always align with God's Word, His ways, His plans, and His purposes. Matthew 26:41 says, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Likewise, our body or flesh will always be against God.

The Real Conflict

The real conflict arises in our soul; our mind, our will and our emotions. If your spirit is strong, it will keep your soul in check. However, if your spirit is weak, you will be dominated by your soul. Let's look at how our soul will cause us to sway either the way of the Spirit or the way of the flesh.

The Mind

Romans 8:7 says, that a carnal mind is at enmity with God. Enmity here means to oppose or be against God. Conversely, a mind that is renewed to the ways of God will always go God's way.

Our mind must be renewed daily to the Word of God. Rom 12:2 instructs believers to be **transformed by the renewing of their mind**. In addition, Ephesians 4:22-24 declares, "... put off your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind..."

The Will

God created man and woman with a free will. We can freely choose every day to receive life or death. We choose everyday whether we will go the way of life or the way of death.

The LORD said in Deuteronomy 30:19 & 20

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before your life and death, blessing and cursing; **therefore, choose** life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you

may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." NKJV

Not only what you do, but what you say will bring life or death. Proverbs 18:21 declares, "death and life are in the power of the tongue."

The Emotions

Out of control emotions will always through you the way of the flesh. Learning how to control your emotions will always give time and contemplation as to how to handle a situation with wisdom. When anger boils up and we allow it to explode, the result is never good. However, when anger boils up and we control it, not allowing it to explode, we give ourselves time to know how to respond. The end result will be better than losing control of your anger.

When we were born again our spirit was immediately regenerated. However, our soul must be controlled daily. To control in your soul, you must set yourself aright with God. Continually align yourself with His ways. How do you do this?

Three Keys to Soul Control

Submit Yourself to God

James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Develop a life that says to God, "it's Your way or no way." Every time you say no to the cravings of the flesh; the desire will weaken.

Discipline Your Thought Life

2 Corinthians 10:5 says, "... **bring every thought into captivity** to the obedience of Christ..."

Phil 4:8 says, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble,

whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--**meditate (or think) on these things.**"

Apply what You Learn

Application means that you have to do something. Become a doer of the Word!

James 1:22, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Why is it important to apply what you learn? If you do, you will never stumble!

2 Peter 1:5-11

"...for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**, to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance **godliness**, to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble." NKJV

Now that we know our thought life plays a major role in prospering in our soul let's take a look at what the Scripture has to say about our thoughts.

The Thought Life

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7)

Thoughts are defined as “reasonings” of the mind

Your thoughts will either drive you to something or away from it.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...**” NKJV

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:8)

Double-minded meaning: two-spirited, vacillating in thoughts and purpose.

Taking old thoughts and replacing them with new thoughts.... How do you find new thoughts? From the Word of God? His Word, His promises!

Hebrews 4:13 says, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** NKJV

How do we discern our thoughts? Ask ourselves a question. Do my thoughts bring life or death? Do they edify or tear down?

Romans 8:6, “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Our mind must be renewed daily to the Word of God.

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How do we do renew our mind and take hold of our thought life?

- 1) Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- 2) Become a student of the Word of God
- 3) Be determined like Paul to know God
- 4) Develop a life of prayer

As you do these things, your soul will prosper and your thought life will change. In fact, your thoughts will be conformed to His will (Proverbs 16:3 AMP) and you will have the mind of Christ just like Paul told the Corinthians (1 Cor. 2:16).

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