

DEVELOPING A STRONG SPIRIT

OCTOBER 15, 2023

INTRO: Developing a strong spirit is a major key to living a successful Christian life. As a believer, the condition of our spirit determines the quality of our life. **PR. 18:14 AMPC** The spirit of a man can be strong or weak and broken. Therefore, it's imperative that we do what is necessary to be certain our spirit is strong.

The Triunity of Man (1 THES. 5:23)

Understanding the triunity of man is necessary to develop a strong spirit. Man is a spirit, has a soul, and lives in a body. Every person is a spirit being. When one dies, his body gets buried, but his spirit and soul still exist. His spirit will enter heaven or hell where he will spend his eternity. This depends on his attitude toward Christ.

The Breakdown

The spirit is the real man made in the image of God. The soul is comprised of the mind, will, emotions, and intellect. The body is to the spirit and soul what clothing is to the body, or as a space suit is to an astronaut. The body is referred to as a tent by Paul.

The Fall (ROM. 5:12)

The Fall affected all three parts of man's being. His spirit was separated from God. His soul lost the knowledge of God, and his body became mortal. All three parts needed rescued or saved from their fallen state. One man named Adam caused man's separation from God.

The Last Adam (1 COR. 15:45, 21-22 NLT)

The first man (Adam) brought death. The second or last Adam (Christ) brought resurrection life. The first step in developing a strong spirit is to be Born Again (**JOHN 3:3-7**).

From Death to Life (JOHN 5:24)

In the first Adam, everyone experiences spiritual death. When one accepts Christ and is Born Again, he passes from death to life. The New Birth has nothing to do with our flesh. It's a rebirth of the spirit (**1 PET. 1:23, JA. 1:18**). A change occurs within (**2 COR. 5:17 AMPC**). The evidence being Agape love that we passed from death to life (**1 JOHN 3:14-15**).

The War Zone (ROM. 12:1-2)

The body and soul need dealt with. The flesh needs crucified, and the mind needs renewed to God's word (**GAL. 5:16-17 ESV, 5:24 ESV**). We have now entered the war zone.

The Battlefield (2 COR. 10:3-5)

As long as we live, the mind is where the battle is won or lost. To win the battle requires exalting God's word above our way of thinking (**IS. 55:6-9**)

- 1.) I'm going to heaven, so I'll make heaven (**JOHN 3:3**).
- 2.) I'm saved and have all of the spirit (**ACTS 19:2**).
- 3.) I don't need to attend church (**HEB. 10:25**).
- 4.) I refuse to forgive (**MK. 11:25-26**).
- 5.) Homosexuality is acceptable to God (**LEV. 20:13 ESV**).
- 6.) Gay marriages are acceptable to God (**1 COR. 7:1-3 NIV**).

Thought Replacement

Thoughts that violate God's way of thinking must be resisted and forsaken. Doing so will develop strong spirits among us. Jesus defeated Satan by using thought replacement.

- 1.) "You're nothing" - **EPH. 2:10** "I'm a masterpiece".
- 2.) "You're guilty" - **2 COR. 5:17** "I'm God's righteousness".
- 3.) "You're condemned". **ROM. 8:1-2** "I'm free".