

The Power

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

The Place of the indwelling to do the will of God

Where is the place the Spirit indwelling? What is the mode in which “The Spirit” works? Finally, what are the correct views of the differences between soul and the Spirit of man, and their mutual relation.

First, we must go back to man’s creation (**Genesis 2:7** 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.) Andrew Murray in his book *The Spirit of Christ: Thoughts on the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Believer and the Church* explains the verse in this way: “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground:’ thus was his body made. And breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life. Thus his Spirit came from God. ‘And man became a living soul.’ Thus the Spirit quickening the body, man became a living soul, a living person with the conscience of himself. The soul was the meeting-place, the point of union between body and Spirit. Through the body, man the living soul, stood related to the external world of sense; could influence it, or be influenced by it. Through the Spirit he stood related to the spiritual world and the Spirit of God, whence he had his origin; could be the recipient and the minister of its life and power. Standing thus midway between two worlds, belonging to both, the soul had the power of two worlds, belonging to both, the soul had the power of determining itself, of choosing or refusing the objects by which it was surrounded, and to which it stood related.” (pg 228)

The soul is the unifier of the body and the spirit of man to keep the body in subjection to the Spirit. The soul was to receive as even a greater director than the spirit the Divine Spirit as its perfection thus enabling one to become a spiritual body. (**Psalm 42:1-2** As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. **2** My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?) Here is how Andrew Murray explains the place of the soul in connection with spiritual body: “The wonderful gift with which the soul was endowed, specially those of consciousness and self determination or mind and will, were but the mold and vessel into which the life of the Spirit, the real substance and truth of Divine life, was to be received and simulated. They were a God-given capacity for making the knowledge and will of God its own. In doing this, the personal life of the soul would have become filled and possessed with the life of the Spirit, the whole man would have become spiritual. We know how the opposite of this took place. The soul yielded to the solicitations of the senses and became its slave so that the Spirit no longer ruled, but vainly strove to vindicate for God His place until God said (**Genesis 6:3** And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.) wholly under the power of the flesh. The Spirit of man becomes dormant a capacity for knowing and serving God which would have to wait its time for deliverance and quickening. The soul ruled instead of the spirit, and the great mark of all religion, even in its most earnest struggles after God, is that it is the soul of man’s own energy without the Divine Spirit, putting forth its own efforts to find and to please God.” (pg 229)

This thought brought two Scriptures immediately to mind. First, (**1 Corinthians 2:11-16** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. **15** But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. **16** For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.)

Second (**Romans 10:1-4** Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. **2** For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. **3** For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.)

The mode in which the Spirit works is through the regeneration of the spirit of man enabling the Holy Spirit to guide the soul of man. Andrew Murray again explains in this way: “In regeneration it is the spirit of man that is

quicken again and renewed. The word regeneration or being born again, Scripture uses as the change whereby the soul passes from death to life, effected like the natural birth, at once and once for all. The word renewed is used of the continuous and progressive work by which the life of the Spirit of God enters more fully into our life, and asserts its supremacy through our entire nature.” (pg 229)

In regeneration the original relationship between soul and spirit is restored. The spirit of man is quickened and becomes a dwelling place for God’s Spirit. He is the teacher and leader of the divine life given of the truth and benefits we possess through Christ. The divine life leads us into a deeper understanding of the Truth and the depth of the benefits God has given to us through Christ. The divine Spirit of God communicates to our renewed spirit in salvation (**2 Peter 1:3-4** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: **4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.) The reality of this awesome privilege takes place “only as the soul, in confession of how blind it has become, of how slowly its faculties, really become spiritual and divinely enlightened, in the willingness to be foolish and ignorant, and teachableness to wait on God’s Spirit to give His truth in the life, yields itself to that complete supremacy of the Spirit which was its original destiny.” (pg 229)

A vital warning must be issued concerning the soul. The soul of man loves to be in power. What was meant to be a conduit of spiritual guidance is now seeking the control of the body. Even though it surrendered at conversion, it wants to take control in serving Christ. The Spirit indwelling man’s spirit is to master the desires of the soul. God wants mastery of the whole so He can purge out all confidence in the flesh (**Romans 8:5-13** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. **6** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. **9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. **10** And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **12** Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. **13** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.) The call of the Christian is to hate his own life (**Luke 14:26** If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.) The Christian life is a dying to self (**Mark 8:34-38** And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. **35** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it. **36** For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? **37** Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? **38** Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.) I love how Adrian Rogers explained the difficulty of life for the Christian. He said, “The hard thing about the Christian life is not giving up bad for good, but rather giving up good for best.” We must give our soul in its acting and power over to complete death. Only when the soul is in submission to the Spirit of God through His communication to our renewed spirit can we have a proper fear of self and its wisdom and an absolute dependence for the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The action just described is the first condition to spiritual life.

The protection and path for the Christian to abstain from trusting in the soul as its master and to obtain the proper place of the soul in total submission to the Spirit of God through the renewed spirit of God in man as a communicator to the body is prayer. The connection of Christ teaching His disciples how to pray is in the context of the Holy Spirit’s full outpouring on the renewed spirit of man. (**Luke 11:13** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?) Only then can “Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth at it is in Heaven.”

We must together plead together for one another that a deeper submission of the Spirit is realized in our souls. Let us confess that we have received the Spirit of God in our regenerated spirit, and the soul need no longer be

the guide. The power and authority of sin has been broken through God's grace. May we as Andrew Murray explains, "The spirit is the seat of our God consciousness, the soul of our self consciousness, the body of our world consciousness. In the renewed spirit God dwells, in the soul self, in the body sense. As long as a right relation existed, and the soul with itself was subject to the renewed spirit, and through it to God, all was well, but sin comes as the assertion of self in seeking its life through sense and not obedience to the spirit. And so the soul, self, selfishness becomes the ruling principle of man's life." (pg 231) (**Matthew 16:24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.)

The only means of effective prayer for the mighty battle between soul and Spirit is prayer, activated by the Spirit's enlightenment of the Scriptures. (**Hebrews 4:12-16** 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. **13** 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. **14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. **15** For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.)

Let us be as John's disciples when meeting Jesus in **John 1:38** Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

Christian, the Holy Spirit isn't just upon you; He is in you, and the Godhead is hidden in you. You are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, providing the presence of God in you. **John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.