

Weekly

Correspondence

From Pastor Emmanuel & Your Church Family

Personal Transformation: The Soul

As we've studied before, personal transformation affects four levels: mind, heart, soul, and body.

So far, we have discussed the mind and the heart. You may need to review those two reflections to make a better sense of what we study in the following lines: the soul.

Our biblical foundation comes from two scriptures: Genesis 2:7 and 1 Corinthians 15:45.

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

The Human Soul is that, which gives us life

The soul, as a concept, implies the life that we have now. Take a look again at Genesis 2:7,

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

What made Adam, the first human being, according to Genesis, to have had existed here, was God's breath of life.

God breathing into his nostrils gave Adam a soul, and, therefore, making him a living being.

The original intention God had by creating Adam, and all human beings later, was for him and us all to be just like God (made in His image – see Genesis 1:26-28).

But, the fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3) opened a door to evil and all its consequences as well as death.

The soul, which was originally meant to live forever, then became subject to physical death at some point, as a result of our sin.

This breath of life, we receive as we enter this world as babies, is taken away when we physically die.

Now, read 1 Corinthians 15:45,

So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

That’s the good news we can experience through the last Adam, Jesus Christ. He makes our souls live longer, even after our physical lives have ended.

Jesus said it this way in John 11:26,

And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

Salvation applies to our Souls

Jesus, based on the above scripture (John) is asking you and me today: “do you believe this?”

Let me explain how this whole process of salvation works using the following two steps, which we also discussed previously.

Step One: Be intentional about listening to God through your mind.

The mind, as we studied earlier, is the place for all mental activities. It is also where we have our first encounter with the outside world.

That's why if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as the Israelites did (see Hebrews 3:15).

Also, keep in mind that God speaks to us, one way or another. So, you have to be ready because you won't know when God wants your attention.

All that takes place in your mind. Here's what you have to do as often as you can:

- Offer yourself to God, on a daily basis.
- Ask God to renew your mind.

Step Two: Let God dwell in your heart.

You hear God's voice through your mind. Then, the next step is to open your heart to Him.

Read Revelation 3:20,

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

The heart matters so much in God's eyes because that's the only place where God would like to write His Word (commandments) ~ review the reflection on the Heart.

When God dwells in your heart, you experience the following:

- Obedience.
- Inner and spiritual strength.
- The purity of life.
- Covenant with God.

When you do the above two steps, you've allowed your soul to live forever, as a result.

Bringing it together

God, through faith in Jesus Christ, saves our souls from eternal damnation, which resulted from the first Adam. Through Christ, the last Adam, we can now live forever even when our physical lives end. Praise be to God!

About

You are receiving a written reflection from Pastor Emmanuel, based on his message from Sunday worship. This correspondence contains last week's Sunday sermon: *Personal Transformation: The Soul*. Pastor also publishes his messages as reflections on his blog, www.emmanuelnawaji.com. The other document included in this envelop is the Sunday bulletin. While we do not print bulletins for worship, we would like you to have a printed so that you know what is happening in the life of our Church.