

## TRICHOTOMY 201

**Request:** After studying Trichotomy 101, the person who requested the study may have understood. However I left confused because I thought the human spirit was dead prior to salvation. Could you please explain this to me?

There are two views in theology about the state of the human spirit in an unbeliever.

- Some believe that the human spirit is literally dead prior to salvation. This is referred to as **dichotomy** or two parts – soul and body.
- Others believe that the human spirit is spiritually dead not literally dead in an unbeliever. This is referred to as **trichotomy** or three parts – soul, body and human spirit.

You will need to study **Trichotomy 101** to understand why all members of human race are born trichotomous.

- “Who gives breath to the people on it (earth), and spirit to those who walk on it.” (Isa.42:5; Zech.12:1)
- “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26; Ps.104:29; 146:4)

The reason you left class confused is a conflict in beliefs. This is normal and you did the mature thing by further examining the word of God for the truth. I went through the same process.

Be assured that **all believers** are trichotomous. “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess.5: 23)

**The theological question is: “is the human spirit literally or spiritually dead prior to grace salvation?”**

**In TRICHOTOMY 201, we will study FOUR aspects of the human spirit being spiritually dead prior to grace salvation.**

**1. When a member of the human race dies, his body goes to the grave, his spirit returns to God, and his soul goes to heaven or hell (Trichotomy 101; Eccl.12:6-7; 2 Cor.5:6-8).**

Jesus Christ bore the sins of the entire world from the cross quoted Ps.31: 5: “And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.’ And having said this, He breathed His last.” (Luke 23:46)

**Question:** While on the cross, was Jesus’ spirit literally dead or spiritually dead? “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘eli, eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?’” (Matt.27: 46) Jesus is quoting Ps.22: 1.

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.” (1 Pet.3:18; 1 John 3:5)

When Jesus died, His spirit returned to God and his body went to the grave and His soul went to Hades (1 Pet.3:18-19; Rom.8:9-11). He was raised on the third day, Easter Sunday, from Hades and the grave.

## 2. The 13 judicial charges of Adam's original sin (AOS) are imputed to all members of the human race.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.” (Rom.5:12)

This is referred to as spiritual death: “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.” (1 Cor.15:22)

Spiritual death is separation from God in time (Matt.27:46). When a person physically dies under spiritual death, he will suffer a second spiritual death which is separation from God in eternity – “Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.” (Rev.20:6)

## 3. Under Adam's Original Sin (AOS), Paul describes the unbeliever, as the natural man.

“**But a natural man** (psuchikos anthropos) [as opposed to spiritual man] (pneumatikos) **does not accept** (dechomai / p.m.ind / ouk) **the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness** (moria) **to him, and he cannot** (dunamai / p.m.ind / ouk) **understand** (ginosko / a.a.inf) **them, because they** [the things of the Spirit of God] **are spiritually appraised** (pneumatikos / adverb).” (1 Cor.2: 14)

The human spirit is unable to comprehend spiritual phenomena without the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. “But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet himself is appraised by no man.” (1Cor.2:15; 2:13; 6:19-20; Jude 19)

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” (Rom.8:15)

The Spirit of Truth teaches the human spirit Truth. (John 14:17, 26; 15:26-27) “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” (John 16:13)

## 4. The modern church doesn't teach on function of the human spirit even though the Bible talks a lot about it. However, we can identify with it because it resides within every person.

“For who among men knows (oida / perf.a.ind) the thoughts of a man [human sphere] except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God [divine sphere] no one knows (ginosko / perf.a.ind) except the Spirit of God.” (1 Cor.2:11; 2:10)

Who knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of man, which is in him? (Gen.3: 6)

- “Do not be hasty in your spirit to be angry, for anger resides in the bosom of fools.” (Eccl.7:9)
- “A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, but when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.” (Prov.15:13; 17:22)
- “Therefore, I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.” (Job 7:11)
- “And I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus; because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.” (1 Cor.16:17-18)

(2 Cor.7: 1; Prov.16: 32; 25:28; Ps.77: 1-6; 142:2-3; 143:4; Mark 2:8; 14:38; John 11:32-35; 13:21-30; 2 Tim.1: 7; Luke 1:46-47; Acts 18:25; Col.2: 5)