

## **TRICHOTOMY 301**

**Request:** “Would you please explain the function of the human spirit? I don’t remember much being taught on the human spirit.”

You are right about not much being taught on the human spirit. It wasn’t taught in my circle of Christian theology. The reason may be the assumption that the unsaved is dichotomous and the saved is trichotomous but the emphasis is placed on the indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit. However, this is our third lesson on the human spirit.

**Two questions that we will attempt to answer in this lesson will be  
“Is the human spirit important in human life?” and “How does the human spirit function in life?”  
This lesson will study five aspects of the human spirit in order to answer these two questions.**

### **1. After years of study, I have reached the following three conclusion about the human spirit.**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - All members of the human race are born trichotomous (Isa.45:15; Zech.12:1; Eccl.12:7). A general biblical principle related to the human spirit is that it is given at birth and removed at death – “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26)

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Human spirit is spiritually dead not literally dead (figurative language). A spiritually dead person is one without the indwelling Holy Spirit (Jude 19; Rom.8:9-11; 1 Cor.6:19-20). This means that the unsaved human spirit cannot comprehend spiritual things (1 Cor.2:14).

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – The Holy Spirit teaches the saved human spirit spiritual truth (Rom.8:15; John 14:17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:13).

### **2. Paul makes four comparisons between the human spirit in saved and unsaved people in 1 Cor.2: 11-16.**

- **Thoughts of man vs. the thoughts of God (2:11)**
- Spirit from the world vs. Spirit from God (2:12)
- Words taught by human wisdom vs. words taught by Spirit (2:13)
- Natural man does not accept the things of Spirit of God vs. spiritual man has mind of Christ (2:14-16).

### **3. Because of the omniscience of God, the Lord knows the thoughts of man.**

“The Lord knows the thoughts of man; he knows that they are futile.” (Ps.94:11; 1 Cor.2:11)

This was a sign of the messiahship of Jesus as recorded in Mark 2:1-12 and the “paralytic healing”. We will examine the passage by the following four homiletical points.

- Roofers (2:1-4)
- Rewarder (2:5)
- Ridiculers (2:6-7)
- Redeemer (2:8-11)
- Reporters (2:12)

**4. The word of God is cycled through the soul to the human spirit under the indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit in spiritual growth.**

“For the **word of God** is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and **piercing** as far as the **division** of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**” (Heb.4:12; 2 Cor.7:1)

True worship is in human spirit and divine truth: “the true worshipper shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

Mary, the mother of Jesus, offers an example of true worship: “**My soul** exalts the Lord (thinks bible doctrine), and **my spirit** has rejoiced in God my Savior.” (Luke 1:46-47/ The Magnificat)

**5. Once you understand how the human spirit functions in life, you can identify it other people.**

For example when we relate to tragedy (mind) and are moved to compassion and tears (human spirit), this shows the function of the human spirit (movies and get choked-up - heart felt).

Death of Lazarus gives one example of this principle (John 11:28-37). We will study it under the following four homiletical points.

- Mourners (11:28-31)
- Mary (11:32)
- Moved in spirit (11:33-35) “When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her, also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit, and was troubled.” (11:33)
- Misapprehension (11:36-37)

Another example occurred at the Last Supper over betrayal of Jesus by a disciple: “When Jesus had said this, He became trouble in spirit, and testified, and said, ‘truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.’” (John 13:21, 18)

It was also used to describe Apollos as a charismatic speaker: “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John.” (Acts 18:25, 24-26/ Pricilla and Aquila)

Psalms gives a warning about the effects of suffering upon the human spirit (Ps.77:1-7; 142:2-3; 143:3-4) – “Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart is appalled within me.” (143:4).

Proverbs warns us to keep our anger under control: “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.” (Prov.16:32; 25:28)

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (deilia) [cowardice, fearfulness, fright causing flight], but (spirit) of power and love and discipline (sophronismos) [saving or soundness in thinking, self-control].” (2 Tim.1: 7)

Paul referred to being absent in body but present in spirit (1 Cor.5: 3; Col.2: 5; 1 Thess.2: 17) [heart].