

THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Request: “What did Paul mean by ‘The Lord be with your (sou) spirit’ in 2 Tim.4:22?”

2 Tim.4:22 is an interesting but a normal benediction of Paul (Gal.6:18, Phil.4:23; Rom.16:20b).

Paul used a singular pronoun (sou) in reference to Timothy in the first part of the verse and a plural pronoun (humon) in the second part in reference to other believers – “Grace be with you (humon).”

The definite article was used with the Greek word spirit (tou pneumatou/ gsn). Paul used it in his benedictions. The definite article raises an issue in Greek grammar. It emphasizes the use of “the spirit” as a nomenclature rather than a quality or characteristic.

As a nomenclature, it refers to the theology of **trichotomous** man. “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify your entirely; and may your spirit (**to pneuma**) and soul (**he psuche**) and body (**to soma**) be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess.5:23)

Therefore, we conclude that Paul is referring to the **human spirit** in 2 Tim.4:22.

This lesson will study four aspects of the Human Spirit in order to understand what Paul meant by “The Lord be with your spirit.”

1. God is the source of the life principle of the human spirit. This means that the source of the life principle of the human spirit is outside man.

“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” (Gen.2:7; Num.27:16; Job 33:4; Zech.12:1)

“Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?” (Heb.12:9)

“In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?” (Job 12:10)

The grace sign given by God of the human spirit is breathing – “Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it.” (Isa.42:5b; Job 27:3; Ps.135:17)

2. God is also the source of the death principle of the human spirit. This means that the source of the death principle of the human spirit is outside man.

“Into Your hand I commit my spirit; you have ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth.” (Ps.31:5; Luke 23:46; John 19:30)

“Of all that was on the dry land, all in whose **nostrils** was the breath of the spirit of life, died.” (Gen.7:22; 2:7; Job 34:14-15)

“**You** take away their spirit; they expire and return to the dust.” (Ps.104:29b; 146:4)

“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26)

3. Since the human spirit comes from God at birth and returns to God at death for mankind, this makes the eternal destiny of the soul the issue of salvation.

“If He should determine to do so, if He should gather His spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.” (Job 34:14-15)

At death **the body** goes to the grave and **the human spirit** returns to God and **the soul** goes to heaven or Sheol (Hebrew), Hades (Greek) or Hell (English) (Luke 16:19-31).

When Jesus died, His soul went to Sheol or Hades as prophesied (Acts 2:27, 31/ Ps.16:8-11; 1 Pet.3:18-22).

The church age believer’s soul goes to heaven when he dies (2 Cor.5:6, 8; 12:2; Phil.1:21-23).

“For what does it profit a man to **gain** the whole world, and **forfeit** his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37)

4. As a result of the eight works of Holy Spirit in grace salvation, every church age believer’s human spirit is capable of worshipping God in a child-Father relationship (Jude 19; 1 Cor.2:14-3:3; 6:19-20)

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘**Abba! Father!**’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.” (Rom.8:15-16; Heb.12:23)

“Because you are **sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.” (Gal.4:6-7)

“He **saved** us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5)

“But God, being rich in **mercy**, **because of His great love** with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Eph.2:5-6)

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; **the words** that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” (John 6:63)

“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)

“For who among men knows **the thoughts of a man** except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the **thoughts of God** no one knows except the Spirit of God.” (1 Cor.2:11)

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must **worship in spirit and truth.**” (John 4:23-24)

“**The Lord (be) with your spirit. Grace (be) with you.**” (2 Tim.4:22) [No verbs]