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Soul Fellowship

Dave Roberson

I would never have considered Adam as being "alone". Yet, the same God-head that reasoned among themselves when they said, "let us make man in our own image" is the same God-head that reasoned together and said in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for man to be alone..." To my way of thinking, how could a man like Adam who was created in perfect fellowship with God, ever be considered alone? For a man to be able to walk and talk with God the way Adam did had to have been the best kind of fellowship a person could ever hope for. Yet, God called him alone. The question is why? How could a person with this kind of relationship with God ever be considered alone?

The more I meditated, the more I began to see something that I never completely understood before and that is the importance of fellowship, not only on the level of the spirit (your spirit with God's Spirit), but on the level of the soul, the part of us that feeds on relationships with other people.

When God called Adam alone, we know He could not have been talking about his spirit. His spirit was in perfect fellowship with God. He had to be talking about Adam's soul. And, for God to emphasize the word alone and then create a woman, a whole other human being, so that Adam had the ability to fellowship on the level of the human soul ought to tell us how important interaction in the soul realm is.

Most human beings, like myself, are social beings. We love to fellowship. We NEED to fellowship. Our soul consists of our MIND, WILL, INTELLECT, and EMOTIONS, and demands fellowship. To share these things with other human beings is a kind of fellowship_ we can get no other way. So, with my spirit I fellowship with God, but with my soul I fellowship with other people.

I can still remember (in my early walk with God) how wonderful it was to sit around coffee tables, burning the midnight oil, swapping faith stories, and spouting revelation knowledge. It fed my soul. The human soul is the most incredible thing; it is like a sponge. A sponge is as light as the wind and can be carried away like a leaf ... yet drop it in water and it will absorb several times its, own weight. There is something about the way it is made that gives it this capacity.

It is the same with our soul. God has created our outer man with special sensory devices designed to collect information (hearing, seeing, touching, tasting, and smelling) in such a way that it has the ability of adapting us to our environment.

For instance, if an Eskimo suddenly found himself outside of his primitive setting and on the streets of New York, immediately his intellect would begin to collect information through his senses. His mind would start to make willful decisions based on the information he was receiving on how to survive in his new environment.

Our soul consists of our mind, our will, our intellect, and our emotions and puts us in contact with our surroundings and with other people, but our spirit puts us in contact with God. Jesus was talking about His relationship with God and other people when He said in John 16:32 during a time of trial, "Behold the hour cometh, yea, is now come that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me..."

There is something we must understand about our soul; it loves fellowship, it loves to be entertained, and it craves knowledge and achievements. This is why a civilization is considered cultured when it evolves beyond the basic instincts of survival and develops an appreciation for the fine arts, theater, and social structures.

The same way our physical man craves food, our soul craves fellowship and knowledge, and our spirit (the hidden man of the heart) craves fellowship with the Spirit of God. When we eat physical food, it satisfies the appetite of our outer man. When we fellowship with other people, it satisfies the appetite of our soul for relationships. But, when it comes to our spirit, our hunger is for the knowledge of God and there is only one source we can turn to to satisfy the cravings of our inner man and that is the Word of God.

Because our soul is the part of us that gives us the ability to exist on a level of consciousness with our surroundings, we are aware of the sky, the ground, other people, needs, abundance or lack, and that is the part of us most affected by circumstances. The same way our soul has been assigned the task of teaching us about our surroundings, the Holy Spirit has been assigned the task of teaching our spirit about God. This is why Proverbs 20:27 says, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly."

Notice how the 27th verse makes reference to our human spirit as the candle of the Lord. In other words, the same way we would light a candle to illuminate a dark room, our human spirit is the part of us that the Holy Spirit illuminates to shed light on the things we need to understand about God ... things that can only be spiritually discerned.

When we talk about the human soul consisting of mind, will, intellect, and emotion, the part of the soul that works as one component with our human spirit is our mind. The difference between our mind and our intellect is our intellect consists of the sum total of all the information we have collected over a lifetime of living. Whereas our mind is our reasoning process. Our intellect supplies our mind with the information to reason with. When our mind is able to use this information to our advantage, this becomes WISDOM.

But we do not want the wisdom of the world, we want the WISDOM that comes from above ... the WISDOM of God. The first thing the Holy Spirit does when He takes up residency in our human spirits is to begin to influence us through our new nature as born-again believers to receive the

engrafted Word of God which is able to save our souls.

Then the Holy Spirit will move on our mind which is our reasoning process to get us to feed our intellect with the Word of God. In so doing, our mind will acquire a new source of information to reason with. Thus, our intellect is the part of our soul that has been assigned the task of collecting all the information it can from the word of God. This gives our mind something new and godly to reason with. This whole process is called "MEDITATION".

So, here we are living in a world of seeing, hearing, and touching, and the part of us that puts us in direct contact with our surroundings is our soul. Because of the way our soul has been created (that is, to live in the now), it enjoys instant gratification, the fellowship of other people, new cars, new clothes, and the finest of foods. There is absolutely nothing wrong with these things as long as they do not replace our relationship with God. But we do need to remember that, since this realm of the soul is so enjoyable to live in, it is easy to neglect the realm of the spirit and the nurturing of our inner man.

When a pastor discovers that the more social he becomes with his church, the more successful things appear to be, he will tend to gravitate towards the things that offer the more instant gratification of the soul; programs for the singles, those who are married, the youth, the best and most popular music, etc., ... things in the now.

These things are fine as long as they do not replace the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word to the hidden man of the heart. Most ministries don't mean to, but they are deceived into simulating success by replacing the fellowship of God with fellowship with one another. All of these things are necessary for the growth of the soul ... God intended it that way. But, if they replace the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word, we can go through fellowship after fellowship, year after year, to church after church, and be exactly the same in five years as we are now because permanent change does not come from the soul, it comes from the spirit.

God wants to make us strong. He wants us to be a testimony to the Body of Christ and a light to sinners. He wants us to be successful in everything we lay our hands on. But we must remember that permanent change does not come from the soul but from the spirit. This is why Romans 12:1-2 says: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

While praying about this letter, I thought of two incidents that have meant everything to me because they represent a change in my life that, at the time, seemed impossible. One was when a woman who had been totally blind for years was healed. I can still remember bending over and looking into her eyes and God suddenly opening them. She screamed and I jumped! Can you imagine after being blind for many years, the first thing she saw was my face, just inches from her face, looking into her eyes? Later I just wept. You must understand why this miracle moved me so deeply. I still had enough of my unworthy Holiness Church roots left in me that I was moved beyond words that the God of this universe would even occupy the same room with me, much less do a miracle THROUGH

me.

The second incident was when two college professors who did not know each other asked me for an appointment on the same day, one taught speech and the other language. So, even though they did not know each other, we all went to lunch together. I thought I was in trouble for massacring the English language, but they had gotten hold of my tape series on "Meditation, Imagery, and Delivery" and they wanted to know who had taught me how to meditate and preach. I was stunned and had to stop and think. God used that moment of reality to help me understand where He had brought me from and how He did it.

You see, my dad had spent most of his life in prison. My grandfather (who raised us) hated my dad because of what he had done to my mother. She was a periodic alcoholic and would spend months away from home drinking, leaving us with Grandpa for him to take care of. I must have looked a lot like my dad, because, when Grandpa would get mad at me, he would yell and scream, "You are no good, you're just like your old man, you will never amount to anything." I grew up intimidated and rebellious, and I became a habitual liar in order to be accepted by anyone. Even after I was born again and filled with the Holy Ghost, I still did not know how to change the deep-seated patterns in my soul realm that made me a failure.

You must understand, I took lower grades in English rather than give oral reports. I was a failure and a quitter. It seemed like something in my character sabotaged everything I tried to do or finish. When I would hear evangelists preach on the mighty Holy Spirit and how He moved in the days of creation, I wanted to raise my hand and say, "Pardon me, is that the same Holy Spirit that indwells me? How do I get all that power out of me and onto the problem, because, up until now, the common cold has whipped my britches off?" And now, here are two college professors asking me who my teacher had been? I wanted to cry.

Did you know that we have all kinds of creative ability lying on the inside of us just waiting to be awakened? If you will listen and do what I am about to tell you, the Holy Spirit will purge you of the bad and bring forth the good.

There are thousands of believers who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit and speak with tongues yet who are defeated because they have a case scenario something like mine before I was changed. So, if just having the Holy Spirit was enough, we would all be free by virtue of His presence. But, unfortunately, this is not the case. The Holy Spirit supplies the POWER, but we hold the key and that is, praying in the Holy Spirit. I did not know the effect praying in tongues would have on my life in those early days but I do now ... because I am living in it.

Science says the average person only uses approximately ten percent of their brain. If this is true, one thing we know for sure, God did not create the rest of our brain to lie dormant. Can you imagine what Adam's mind was like at full capacity before his fall? Not only did he name all of the animals, but hundreds of years later, you could ask the name of any of them and he would have been able to tell you.

Have you ever run into someone with a photographic memory? They can read an entire page and

then quote it back to you with every bit of punctuation in the right place. Or someone with a mind like Albert Einstein, who figured out equations on things the rest of us did not even know existed. Or people who can calculate mass amounts of mathematics in their mind at the speed of a calculator. No one could have such a talent unless there was a "someone" who had had the original equipment for us to inherit those abilities from ... "HELLO ADAM!"

Because of the fall of Adam, as a whole, man has degenerated to the state we are in now. But, occasionally, someone will inherit a floating gene from Adam, the father of the whole human race, that will develop a part of their mind to operate closer to the original state that Adam's mind operated in.

Yet, short of a glorified body at the resurrection, no one in their degenerated state will ever reach full capacity or potential again in their natural bodies. But, I have made a glorious discovery. The more I pray in tongues, the more that everything that is of God and creative within me begins to wake up. At first, I did not understand why, but I do now, here we are with a capacity to operate in different areas that we never dreamed possible with our mind and will. But most of us have been robbed, not understanding the long-term effect that worry, torment, and fear has on the ability of our mind to function properly.

The more I prayed, the more peace I seemed to subject my mind to. If pressure destroys your mind, then subjecting it to the Holy Spirit undoubtedly helps to heal it. This is why I John 4:18 says, "*There is no fear in love but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear has torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*"

Sinners do not have the capability we do to close the door on the pressures that destroy the ability of the mind to come to full potential. But we do ... God has given us a key that opens our mind to the things of God because praying in tongues brings rest and refreshing.

Isaiah 28:11-12 says: "*For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.*"

Let me tell you what it feels like when that rest begins to come. You cannot subject your mind to hours and hours of speaking in divine secrets and mysteries from praying in tongues without receiving clarity of mind and insight into the Word. In addition, freeing your mind in this way will do wonders for your memory.

Remember, your soul was created to serve you. Subject it to the right things and it will serve you and God well!

Dave Roberson