

Soul and Spirit

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Esther 5.

B. This story applies to us right now.

C. We are the king over our bodies. The queen is the new spirit. Mordecai is the Holy Spirit at work within us. Haman is the flesh--the self-life.

II. There is a difference between the soul and the spirit of a man.

A. The soul is the conscious part of our life—the center of our ability to think, feel and choose.

B. The spirit is the subconscious part of our life that is awakened when a person becomes a Christian.

1. Our spirit was made alive when we received Christ. (Ephesians 2)

2. We were born again by the Holy Spirit.

3. Our spirit becomes the means by which the Holy Spirit comes to repossess our souls.

III. Everything that goes through our life must pass the consent of our souls.

A. Esther represents the Spirit trying to appeal to the king that represents our soul.

B. Even God does not coerce the human will.

IV. God is never content on a decision that is based upon emotion alone.

A. The soul needs an understanding of the facts.

B. Emotion must lead to knowledge for growth.

V. God sometimes delays action on our behalf so that we can see how evil the flesh is.

A. The flesh lusts against the spirit.

B. All that comes from our human nature is Haman's nature within us that feeds on blinding pride.

C. Evil comes from within and when we face difficulties, we can see it to deal with it.

1. Jesus drove His disciples to the deeds that would ultimately expose them.

2. Within us is the evil that would put Jesus Christ to death again.

3. The most helpful thing is to recognize this and deal with it accordingly.
4. God in His grace drives us to the place that shows us what we are like.

Application questions:

1. What is the difference between the soul and the spirit according to the speaker?

2. What is the flesh? How does God deal with the flesh within us?

3. What does the freedom of a man's soul reveal to him about how God relates to him? Explain.
