

## THE SALVATION OF THE SOUL

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Since the days that Jesus Christ walked this earth, the doctrine of The Salvation of the Soul has always been, and remains today, the most important subject that can engage the mind of man! In days past, before the advent of God's Prophet, William Branham, not many of us really understood what was involved in *soul salvation*. The New Birth, or the soul's salvation, was thought to be many different things. Some supposed it was church membership, along with water baptism. Some thought it was just the correcting of some doctrine that we had wrong. Still others had the idea that it was just changing some bad habits and doing better by turning over a new leaf in our book of life.

Having come out of Pentecost in the mid-sixties, this writer, along with many others, thought that the New Birth was an anointing on our spirit that led to speaking in tongues and the working of other gifts. But, to our dismay, those who were truly seeking God soon learned that this was only a temporary thing that faded out when the service was over and the music had stopped. The Spirit of the Lord would fall in our midst in a service where the people were worshipping the Lord and we had a great time with our Jericho Marches and our messages in tongues, and prophecy. (Which were for the most part, from the flesh.)

This is not at all to say that some people did not have the real New Birth, we know some did. But, we also know that the majority did not. They only had a temporary anointing on their spirit, which was later overcome by the soul that had not been slain and replaced with God's

own Soul. Therefore, the *inner-man*, the old Soul, continued to rule the spirit and in turn the spirit ruled the flesh. As this writer sees it, this was the situation in Pentecost when God sent His Prophet to correct those who desired the real move of God in their lives. We had so many things wrong.

Many of us, including this writer, had preached that the soul was eternal and that it never died. The scripture that declared "**The Soul that sinneth, it shall die,**" (Ezk. 18:20) was either ignored or misunderstood. We supposed that the soul lived forever, either in Heaven or in Hell. But, when Br. Branham came, he taught much different than that. In the statements that we will list below, he taught that the *old soul* must die and that the Lord God replaces it with His own Soul. We cannot discard the scripture that says, "**The Soul that sinneth, it shall die.**" All souls have sinned, therefore all souls shall die, one way or another!

They will die when God slays the old one and replaces it with His own, or else they will be destroyed in Hell later. Please study the following quotes carefully:

QUOTE: C.O.D. BOOK PAGE 676, "QUESTION: Explain the difference between the SPIRIT and the SOUL?" ANSWER: "Well now, that's a hard one. If these eyes, if these hands, if this body stood here just as it is today...my body could still be here, but me (the real me)

could be gone, what I am. Whoever I am on the inside of me has gone on. That part that is the SPIRIT. THE SOUL IS THE NATURE OF THAT SPIRIT...First you were mean, evil, and (full of) hatred, and malice, and strife. Now you are loving, sweet, kind, see the difference? It's your NATURE..I'll call it that. IT'S YOUR SOUL THAT'S BEEN CHANGED. THE OLD SOUL DIED, AND THE NEW SOUL, WHICH IS THE NEW NATURE, WAS BORNED INTO YOU SEE?" (End quote)

QUOTE: CRUELTY OF SIN JEFF. IN V-25 N-4 53-0403, "Made him out of the dust of the Earth, now not in His own image. He had already made the man. Then He breathed into him the Breath of Life and he became a living Soul. So the SOUL of man is the nature of the SPIRIT. Now when you're REBORN you don't get a new SPIRIT, you get a new NATURE of that SPIRIT. It's the same SPIRIT, but a new NATURE of it.

You take two men, stand them together, they both look alike, and one of them is a sinner, and one of them is a Christian. One man says I've got a spirit the same as you have. See? But one of them is different. HIS SOUL, HIS NATURE IS DIFFERENT. HE HAS BEEN CHANGED." (End quote)

QUOTE; SHOW US THE FATHER..SPINDALE, N.C. 56-0422, "But you know the Bible said, 'The SOUL that sinneth. That SOUL

shall die.' Death means separate." (End quote)

QUOTE: GREAT COMMISSION, EDMONTON AB 57-0804A, "When you're sick in your physical body...until this body has been redeemed it's subject to sickness again. Exactly right....But it's got to die. (The body has to die.) It's got to perish. SO DID THE SOUL HAVE TO PERISH, THE THOUGHTS. The soul is the nature of the spirit, and those thoughts and so forth in you had to perish before the new man could be born into you, to make you a new creature in Christ." (End quote)

The old soul nature must die, it must be converted. Psalms 19:7, **"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul..."** if a thing is converted, it is changed from its original beginning so that it no longer exists as it once did. Is this not the same as "death" to the original? It is my belief that this is what our Prophet meant by the *death of the soul*. A complete conversion is the same as the death of the original.

It goes without saying that the Prophet and the scriptures teach that man, without help from God, is totally corrupt. This is the reason that he must be changed from the inside out. The innermost part of man, the soul, must be changed, for before the change it is spiritually DEAD.

QUOTE: YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN, PAGE 14-15, "First we reckon ourselves sinners, and worthy of condemnation. And we are all born in sin and shaped in iniquity, there's not a sound parcel of us. Our MINDS are bad. Our SOUL is corrupted, our constant THINKING is evil, every imaginary THOUGHT of a man's mind is evil, a sinner, and also that our BODY is weak, our spirit is no good and we're just full of COR-

RUPTION. And how could one corruptible thing bring another good thing out of a corruptible? Let me say this, that in Job, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter, he said, **"Seeing that man born of a woman, is full of sorrow and trouble, yet he cometh forth like a flower, he fadeth away."** And as the Prophet goes on speaking, he said, **"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one!"**

You stick your bucket down into the well and pull out a bucket of water, and it's stagnant, it stinks. You look in it, and it's muddy, and little worms is in the water, there is no way at all to put your bucket back and get a clean bucket. THE WHOLE WORLD IS CONTAMINATED. AND THE WHOLE SOUL, MIND, AND BODY OF MAN IS CONTAMINATED WITH SIN. HE'S BORN IN SIN, PHYSICALLY SHAPED IN INIQUITY, AND COME TO THE WORLD SPEAKING LIES. SO THAT HIS OWN SOUL IS CONTAMINATED, NOTHING GOOD." (End quote)

Eph. 2:1-5, **"And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ. (By grace ye are saved.)"**

John 6:44, **"No man can come to me except the Father which**

**hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."** (We are dead until he quickens us.)

Rom. 5:12, **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"**

"DEAD" is a strong word, but it is one God chose to use. Before the changing out of the soul, we are walking dead men. The Bible says that the woman who lives in pleasure is DEAD while she liveth. In the parable of the Prodigal Son that the Lord told, the Father said, **"This my son was DEAD, and is alive again."** Many a church-goer will not accept this sentence about themselves. They may confess that they are not what they should be, and could stand some improvement, that perhaps they are a little wild at times, but DEAD? No! No that is too strong; we should not speak to them like that! They declare that we go too far in making such a statement. But, we must preach what we read in the Bible, it doesn't matter how we feel about it! It's what God says about it.

At a funeral, we have often seen family bend over the coffin and kiss the departed love one. But, there is no response from the one in the coffin. We understand this, because the love one is dead. But, do we understand that there can be no response toward God from those who are still dead in their soul? They are dead while they live, and so Jesus said in John 6:44 that the Father must draw them or they remain dead. (This is not to say that Justification and Sanctification does not change some of our thinking.)

We should now begin to see that unregenerate man is not just leaning to one side and needs to be propped up. He needs more than just to change his doctrine from some denomination to the Message. He

needs more than an education in the scriptures and the Message. He needs more than to just change some of his bad habits. Good moral men can do all these things and still be unchanged in their soul. All men must be changed in the inner-man, the soul.

In Mark 10: 17-21 is the story of a moral man who was unchanged in his soul. By his own testimony he still needed Eternal Life, although he had apparently done a very good job of keeping the Commandments. The Lord did not deny his claim, but told him that his money stood between him and Eternal Life. When we have laid our all on the altar, then the Lord gives the New Birth. Justification is the first step, which is sins forgiven. Laying our all at the Lord's feet is next (Sanctification). Then the last stage of full Salvation is the changing out of the soul, which Jesus called the New Birth. At Justification and Sanctification, the Spirit of God is "with" us, but the New Birth is the Spirit of God changing out the old soul that came from Lucifer, to the Serpent, to Eve and Adam, then to us. We were born with a soul that was lost!

Contrary to teaching that is going forth in some parts of the Message, we still come into full Salvation through the three steps mentioned above. In February of 1965, Brother Branham was still teaching this.

QUOTE: WHO IS THIS MELCHISEDEC, PAGE 22, "The stages of..of the eternal purpose He had in His secret has now been revealed. Notice, there is still three stages to perfection. Just like He redeems the world; same way He redeems His Church. He redeems the people in three stages. Now look, first is Justification like Luther preached; second, Sanctification like Wesley preached; third Baptism of the Holy

Ghost. That's right! Then comes the Rapture! (End quote)

It is very true that the experiences of Justification and Sanctification cause a definite change in our thinking, but even so, this is still not the Seal that is promised in Eph. 1:13. "**In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your Salvation, in whom AFTER that ye believed ye were SEALED with that Holy Spirit of promise.**" This Seal is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ moving into our *inner man*, slaying the Old Nature (soul) and taking up His abode in its place. The Great Creator actually places a portion of His own Soul in us. This is a great mystery, but it is the answer to how our God stakes out His claim in us. He gives us His own Eternal Nature, and this Nature is a new Soul which then, from the inside out influences the whole man. Please study the following quote.

QUOTE: FAITH IN ACTION, CHICAGO, Speaking about the eagle he watched on the mountain that day, Brother Branham said, "I could shoot you, and he wasn't worried about that. I kept noticing him fooling with his feathers and wings like that. I thought, that's it, he trusts his wings. God gave him two wings and he is a free bird. He can escape from danger anytime he wants to...If an eagle can have confidence in the wings God gave him, how much more ought you to have confidence in the Holy Ghost that saved your soul AND BAPTIZED YOU WITH HIS SOUL." (End quote)

But even with a portion of God's own Soul in us, we still have that "**Law of sin which is in our fleshly members.**" (Rom. 7:23) This sin in our *outer-flesh man* is that which causes the warfare in a Born-Again Christian. The flesh is

in conflict with the new inner nature.

We see then, that from all that has been previously stated, that preaching the Gospel of full salvation has two main parts. The first part is to convince lost man, whether he be in the Church or out, that he was born into this natural world lost and separated from God! This is a very humbling and distasteful message to the natural man, for he thinks highly of himself, and loves to hear that which builds him up.

Nothing pleases him more than to listen to that which lifts up human nature and applauds the natural state of man and his abilities. He loves this even though the whole Bible declares that unregenerate man is fallen far below his ability to help himself, and not only this, but common sense observation of the world around him, and his own miserable failures, put his boasting to shame. Science tells of the so-called "Steady Progress" of the human race, but the figures show quite another story. There is more death today from incurable diseases, and the steady progress of science, than in any other age in history. We were warned of this by our Prophet William Branham, in statements such as the following one.

QUOTE: THINGS THAT ARE TO BE, DEC. 5, 1965, PAGES 18-19, "So our schools and things are a blow-up. That's....God never said, "Go forth and make schools," or even have Bible schools. Did you know that? He said, "Preach the Word." Exactly right. Our educational system's taken us farther away from God than anything I know of (that's right!)...farther away from God. Not build schools, hospitals, and so forth, that was for the world and for that group. But...I ain't got nothing against

them; they play their part, but that's still is not there. We build a hospital ever so good, and practice with the best medicine we got, and thousands die daily. But, oh my in the kingdom of God there is no death; there is no sorrow! Amen! There's no need of these things of the world! But we've passed from this thing into the realities of God. Where we struggle so hard to try to find through science, and more scientific we get, the more death we bring on ourselves. We're fighting a losing battle there, so turn loose of it, and by faith believe Jesus Christ, the Son of God, tonight and accept Him. He is One.

What's science preparing for you? More death? That's right Sputniks and everything going up, and all these things that's scatter death and everything across the earth. Don't look to that; turn your head higher than that, towards Heaven." (Enó quote)

We are to understand then that the overall proof of man's spiritual deadness and depravity is to be seen in the fact of his turning away from God and His Word, and "Leaning to his own understanding," the thing that God straightly warned us against. It needs to be deeply impressed on our minds that as far as natural wisdom is concerned, man's lost condition is beyond help. When the Disciples asked Jesus, "Who

then can be saved?" (Matt. 19:26) He replied, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." A deadly disease was passed into the blood stream of man in Eden, and is fatal unless God intervenes by calling all men at some time or other. "Many are called, (All are called) but few are chosen." (Matt. 20:16) Few are chosen because only a few will whole-heartedly answer the call.

If man is incapable of coming to the Lord unless he be called (John 6:44), then how is it that he will be held accountable for not having come? His accountability starts the day God first calls him, and he rejects the call. Before his call he is just a sinner, and will do the things that come forth out of his fallen nature. After his call (which is conviction), he will either come to God and be saved and blessed, or he will reject Him and be lost. In this way then, every man will be accountable at White throne Judgment. No man will be able to say, "I could not come," for it will be on record the time, or times, that he was called.

Our duty then is to preach, "Whosoever will, let him come and drink of the Waters of Life freely." We must never preach to sinners that some can come and some cannot. All who want to know God and serve Him may come. You ask, "What about Election?" That is

a scriptural fact, but it is out of our jurisdiction, that is God's business, and we must leave it in His Hands. Man is a responsible creature after his call, and all must choose for themselves whether to serve God or Mammon! Jesus said in Matt. 13:15, "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

The second part of preaching the Gospel of Salvation is to show how God's Lamb, Jesus Christ, has come and lived a sin-free life, then gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice to pay for our every sin. Therefore, a verdict of "Not Guilty" has been held out to everyone that believes God's plan of the Cross where God's own Blood was shed instead of ours. The sin-debt had to be paid, and the One who made the Law of Sin and Death could then choose the method of payment. He chose to make Himself a flesh-body like unto ours, and in that body He suffered the full penalty for us all. He is absolutely satisfied that the full debt was paid because He paid it Himself. Amen!

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