

## Embassy Bible College - Prospering The Soul

### Lesson One - The Start Point.

3 John 2 *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

So what is the start point for prosperity?

If your soul is not prospering (developed), your spirit can place a demand on your soul that it is unable to supply. Equals breakdown.

We spend too much time trying to develop our spirit which is already fully mature, and neglect the work required on our soul.

1Corinthians 6:17 *But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*  
Just think about it for a second:

Your Spirit Newly created and directly connected to God.

Your Soul Your Mind - The battlefield of Satan.

Your Will - Subject to all your carnal desires.

Your Emotions - Often messed up by past events, or messed up by evil spirits.

Which area do you think we should work on?

Psalms 103:1-5 *Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:  
Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness  
and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your  
youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Who is speaking?

Spirit, soul or body?

Who is speaking to?

His soul.

Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

You - Present your body

You - Be transformed by renewing your mind.

If you have to present your body and you have to get your mind renewed .....

Who are you?

You are the spirit, you have a soul and you live in a body.

Your soul is made up of your mind, your will and your emotions.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God is concerned about our souls.

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*  
The Word can distinguish between the soul and spirit.  
Many Christians get confused about which is which.

Psalm 23:1-3 *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*  
He restores my soul, not my spirit or my body.  
If God needs to restore my soul, there must have been a problem with it.

Luke 10:27 *So he answered and said, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.*  
How we are to love God? With our soul **and** our mind, emphasising the mind.

### **Life in The Spirit**

This is not some ethereal existence that takes years to achieve.  
You begin your life in the spirit the moment you are born again.  
It simply means living your life with your soul going all out for God.  
Souled - Out for God. Being spiritually minded.

Romans 7 As a homework - Read verses 15-29 and identify which I, which me, and which my, is Paul's spirit or his flesh (including the soul).

Let's look carefully at the whole issue of being Spiritually minded.

Romans 8:1-8 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Spiritually minded When your mind is focussed on what your spirit wants to do.  
Carnally minded When your mind is focussed on what your fleshly (carnal) nature.  
Your body and soul wants to do.  
Carnal comes from the Greek word carne which means meat.  
So a Carnally-minded Christian is a meat head.

*For to be carnally minded is death.* Your own carnal desires will kill you.  
*The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God.* What is it subject to?

**Inner Vows** Our Life Commandments or Personal Laws.

We all have them based in our soul, usually created during our childhood.  
Look how these laws prevent us from being helped.

Your Spirit says:	Tell your Pastors about your problems, they can help you.
Your Law says:	Keep yourself to yourself.
Your Spirit says:	You are more than a conqueror.
Your Law says:	Believe what you were told as a child, you are a failure.
Your Spirit says:	Share the gospel with your neighbour.
Your Law says:	I have been rejected before, never again.

We need to change the laws in our soul to line up with The Word of God.  
Then our mind must be re-trained to follow the leading of our spirit.

How?                      Read The Word, fellowship over The Word with other Christians.  
Remember Romans 12 - Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

1 Peter 1:22-23                      *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*

We purify our souls by obeying the Word of God.  
Sincerely loving people.

Feeding one another=s soul with the revelations we have received.  
Spending less time talking to other Christians about carnal issues.

Realise that:                      People know what your soul is focussed on by what you say.  
And:                                  What you speak is the only thing coming out of you that the other person can feed on.

### **Changing your Mind-set**

I Corinthians 1:20-24 *Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Preaching is foolishness to people of the Greek mindset - it is not logical.  
Christianity is not logical.

Normal School	Based on Greek system, get knowledge and hope that wisdom will come.
Christian School	Get Wisdom, then whenever you receive knowledge you will automatically know what to do with it.

Romans 12:1-3 Our minds will naturally conform to the world until they are renewed.

Prove God=s will To recognise as genuine after examination.

Do we all have the same measure of faith?

Who will operate their faith most effectively?

The one who thinks he has weak faith, or the one who believes the Bible.

### **Look at Abraham.**

Romans 4:17-22 *As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations, in the presence of Him whom he believed, God; who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, So shall your descendants be.*

*And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah=s womb.*

*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

*And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness.*

In hope believed: To think to be true, to be persuaded. (The mind again)  
Not being weak in faith he considered not his own body. (A mental choice)  
He did not fix his mind upon his own circumstances.

Reverse the verse: Being weak in faith he fixed his mind upon negative circumstances.

Staggered / wavered To make a distinction, to give a judgement. You do this with your mind.

Unbelief: This is not Ahaving no belief@, it is having the wrong belief.

Reverse the verse: Then he staggered (wavered) through unbelief and was weakened in his faith.

Even if God gave you a greater measure of faith, if your mind does not believe it will work, it will not work.

You cannot stagger and have balance: We need balance to walk the narrow way.

What is balance? When the weight of soul maturity begins to be equal with the weight of spiritual maturity.

Strong in faith: When your mind lets you give God glory for something before you receive it.

Fully convinced: Certain, convinced, persuaded. It=s a mind thing again.

We don=t have to convince our spirit, it is already directly connected to God.

What are you convinced about?

What do you need to renew your mind about?



Satisfies my soul=s mouth with good things, I will speak the right things.  
My soul=s youth is renewed like the eagle.  
That is: my lost childhood is repaired like new.

Isaiah 40:31 *But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

But they that wait upon (serve) the Lord shall:  
Renew their strength, to sprout again like new grass in the spring-time.  
Mount up, to spring up and shoot forth.  
With wings as eagles, who fly high, above the clouds and troubles.  
Run, and not be weary; walk and not faint. That is endurance.

2 Corinthians 4:16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*  
This is a daily walk with The Lord in renewal.

### **Feeding the Soul**

Psalm 42:5 *Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.*

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Why are you depressed?

Here is the solution: Hope in God: for I shall yet praise him.  
Trusting God is the key to being fed by Him.

Psalm 57:7-11 *My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations. For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds.*

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth.*

**Note - this prayer is after David has fled in fear for his life.**

His heart is steadfast and trusts in God despite the circumstances.

Psalm 139:14 *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvellous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

And that **my soul knows** very well.

Praising God brings knowledge to our soul.

Psalm 103:5 He satisfies our soul=s mouth with good things

He provides in His Word the things we need to say.

Things that feed our soul and other people=s souls with good stuff.

1 John 4:20 *If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*

If we cannot relate soul to soul with those we can see, how can we relate to God=s soul.

What do we say?      When the place is deserted. There is not another soul.  
Keep a secret? I won't tell another soul.  
How do you count people on a ship? Souls on board.

**God is no respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of choices.**

What do you feed your soul with?  
What do you feed on that you can feed others with?  
Like comedy videos or films.  
Like having fun together.  
Like getting to know one another.

The less you know about your fellow Christians, the less you know about God, because He is in them and feeds your soul through them.

Matthew 12:17-18      *Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.*

A prophecy about Jesus. Father has a soul and we are made in His image.

Mathew. 26:36-38      *Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, Sit here while I go and pray over there. And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.*

Jesus has a soul and He hurts just like us.

What about the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:27      *Now, He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

The Holy Spirit has a mind.

1 Corinthians 12:11      *But, one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

The Holy Spirit has a will.

Romans 15:30      *Now, I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,*

The Holy Spirit loves, He has emotions.

For the Holy Spirit to have a mind, a will and emotions; He must have a soul.

**How Soul Prosperity affects Salvation**

Mathew. 16:24-26      *Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*

*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

If a man tries to save (fix) his own life and soul, he will lose it.

Let go of your way for His sake and find a new one in Jesus.

Revelation 20:11-15      *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the*

*earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things, which were written in the books.*

Is your name written in The Book of Life?

Only those with a new life and renewed soul will be written there.

Ephesians 2:4-6 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

The spirit of the un-saved person is dead to God, separated from God.

The moment we are saved, our spirit is newly created alive to God.

Romans 10:8-10 *But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Look how we get saved -

1. I confess with my mouth, that Jesus is my Lord.

2. I believe in my heart, the centre of mind, will and emotions; my soul.

I believe in my soul that God raised Jesus from the dead.

This cannot be my spirit, it is still dead to God until the prayer is made.

Imagine you have just led a person through the prayer of salvation.

Before having this teaching, you might say:

AWell done for praying the prayer of salvation. At the moment, you are a baby Christian and you need to build yourself up in the spirit, so read the Bible and go to church@.

So now having heard this teaching, you might say:

AWell done for praying the prayer of salvation. Now you are a fully mature spiritual being, a brand-new creation, vitally connected to God. But your soul (mind, will and emotions) are not. Now God will be able to speak directly to your spirit, but your soul needs to be trained to understand Him and obey Him. So get help to read your Bible and become accountable to someone who can help your soul mature in God, you cannot do this alone@.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

We are encouraged to fellowship together and exhort one another.

That is not just sitting in the same room with someone.

That is fellowship based upon relationship.

## **The Born-Again Butterfly**

Romans 12:1-3      Remember that you (the spirit) are to present your body to God.  
You (the spirit) be transformed by renewing your mind.

Transformed:      (Greek) Metamorphosis. Like a caterpillar, to pupae, to butterfly.  
Born a caterpillar and then born again as a butterfly.  
No butterflies have ever been born, and this process is irreversible.

John 3:5-7      *Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again.*  
First born as flesh, then born again as a spirit.  
No-one has ever been born a Christian. They are only born again.  
This process is also irreversible.