



MOVING FROM SOULISH TO SPIRIT MINISTRY FULFILLMENT

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*"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 5:23*

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

God created people spirit, soul and body. When humanity fell into sin, the spirit died. The enemy now reverses the divine order and puts the emphasis on the body first, the soul second, and the spirit third. When we are born again, our spirit is reborn and linked to Christ. God now wants us to live from the divine order of spirit first, soul second, and the body third.

Some pastor-leaders spend their entire lives ministering out of their soul rather than their spirit. Similarly, many Christians live their lives out of the soul rather than their spirit. The goal of this mentoring session is to take us beyond soulish ministry so that we can spend the rest of our lives ministering and living from the spirit. Specifically, we want to learn how to minister in the Holy Spirit through the human spirit in 3 primary areas.

- » Facilitating corporate prayer
- » Preaching
- » Mentoring and leading our ministry teams

Definition of Terms:

"soul" – The mind, will and emotions. A soulish ministry is, therefore, generated from the mind, will and emotions.

"spirit" – The core of who we are in Christ; our new self, new identity; what is born again when we come to Christ.

"The natural (Gk. PSYCHE) person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14

"We cannot use our own soul against the enemy. Our soul must be submitted to our spirit that is mingling with the Holy Spirit in our new man."

- Graham Cooke, Spiritual Warrior, p.30

<u>Soulsh Ministry</u>	<u>Spirit Ministry</u>
Superficial	Deep
Appeals to mind, will, emotions	Appeals to conscience
Rarely hears God's voice	Consistently hears God's voice
Temporary results	Lasting results
Shallow repentance	Deep repentance
Promotes personal agenda	Kingdom advancing
Prayer is a constant effort	Holy-Spirit prompted prayer
Born of man	Born of God
Serious limitations	Virtually no limitations
Rarely encounters God's presence	Lives in God's manifest presence

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:16

Action Steps

1. Let go – give control to Christ and renounce the spirit of control.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you." Romans 8:9a

The soul fights for control. The key to shifting from soulsh to spirit-prompted ministry is to yield control to Christ.

2. Bind your identity to your new self in Christ.

"You have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self" Colossians 3:9-10

Believe it or not, it is as simple as it sounds – throwing off your old self and living out of your new self is the key to spirit-ministry.

3. Die to self.

"Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires." Ephesians 4:22

Your old self is incapable of ministering from the spirit. Formerly, it controlled the soul and taught the soul many bad habits. Now that your spirit is reborn, you no longer want to allow the old self to control your soul; instead you want God's Spirit through your spirit to control the soul.

4. Take time each day to listen to God in your spirit. Trust the ability of your new self to hear the Holy Spirit.

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5. Put your soul under the dominion of your spirit.

"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." Psalm 42:5

"Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name." Psalm 103:1

"But if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live." Romans 8:13

6. Memorize and meditate on scripture. [See Hebrews 4:12]

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his

good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

The more you memorize and meditate on scripture, the more freedom the Spirit of God has to take the Word of God and penetrate the people of God, dividing soul and spirit, exposing hearts to His manifest presence and leading His people in true repentance. Being transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2) is not a soul-driven discipline; it is a Holy Spirit-driven work in our spirit where we now have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).

7. Pray in the Spirit.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

Praying in the Spirit is when the Holy Spirit prays through your human spirit and controls your soul. Praying in the Spirit can be both audible and inaudible, and often activates the nine manifestation gifts of 1 Corinthians 12.

8. Be careful to give Christ all the glory.

“Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory.” Psalm 115:1

As you minister from your spirit, you’ll be amazed how much more significantly God will use you. There is no limit to what God can do through you as long as you give Him all the glory.

Spirit-Ministry Kingdom Principles

- » If we want to minister in the Spirit, we must learn to let Him work through our human spirit.
- » The key to listening to God is learning to listen to Him in our spirit.
- » If our goal is to preach Christ, we must preach Christ from the spirit, because that is where Christ dwells.
- » Only ministry from the spirit will touch the spirit of others.
- » Since all life transformation flows from the Holy Spirit through the human spirit, the only way to work with the Spirit is to engage in spirit-ministry.

Be it resolved that from this day forward, I will consistently seek to prefer my spirit, which is born again, over my soul – to feed my spirit, trust my spirit and minister from the spirit, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Signature _____ Date _____

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