

Who am I part 4
I am free from the power of the flesh

Answer the following questions to test your memory of the last few studies.
The answers are at the end of the study.

Questions :

A/. Explain what it means to be made in the image of God as it declares in Genesis 1 : 27.

B/. What are some of the old testament symbols that reveal this truth. ?

Question : C/. What did Paul say made up the flesh part of our make up?

Question : D/. Who can remember what the different functions are of the body, soul and spirit?

Paul, in his writings, differentiates between the body, soul and spirit. He calls the body and soul the flesh and refers to the spiritual part of us as the real “you”. The spiritual person created in the image of the one who created it. **Colossians 3:10.**

In this first passage Paul makes reference to the results of offering of our body to sin and allowing it to rule us.

Romans 6: 5If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. **6**For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- **7**because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. **8**Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9**For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10**The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11**In the same way, reckon yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **13**Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. **14**For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Here Paul gives a clearer picture of how sin is able to infiltrate us to the point that we allow it to use our bodies and end up obeying it.

Romans 8:5-6.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. **6** For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

It's all down to what we are setting our minds on. What we give our minds to think about. For as a man thinks, so they are. **Proverbs 23:7**



A Reminder of the symbolism of baptism into Christ's death from the last study from Joshua. (Refer to "I am set free from sin")

The ark was born by the priests as they walked into the flooded river Jordan.

The waters piled up at Adam and were cut off from the dead sea in Arabah.

The Israelites rose up out of the Jordan and entered into the promised land of Canaan. This was the land that flowed with milk and honey. It was the land or realm in which God had provided for their every need.

We have all been baptised into Christ's death and raised again into newness of life. We have crossed over from death to life. We have been set free from sin's power.

Now Let's look at how God has dealt with our flesh from the old testament.

Joshua 5 : 1-3 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites. 2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth (the hill of the foreskins).

At salvation we become a new creature. Old things passed away, all things become new (2 [Corinthians 5:17](#)). We are given a brand new spirit. A new nature. A brand new life. We enter into a new land of promise. A different realm in which all our needs are met in Christ Jesus. Promises that we have to receive by faith, through faith.

For Israel, under the leadership of Moses, it was a new start for them all. A new beginning. All that they could want and need in life was in this land. Provision for their bodies, plenty of food. Provision for their souls, peace and security. Provision for their spirits, a temple in which God would manifest His glorious presence. He would be their God and they would be His people. But they had to go in and take it by faith. They failed due to their lack of faith and their rebellious spirit.

Joshua's generation had the same life ahead of them. But there was something that God wanted them to do before they went in to take hold of the land.

Side line: The hearts of Israel's enemies melted inside them when they heard about what God had done for them. LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO. It is so important that we declare regularly what God has done for us. It puts fear in the heart of Satan's army.

The establishing of God's covenant with Abram. The first mention.

Genesis 17 : 1-14 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. 2I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." 3Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your



descendants after you; and I will be their God." 9Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. **10This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.** 11You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. 12For the generations to come every male among you who is **eight days** old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring. 13Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. **My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.** 14Any uncircumcised male, **who has not been circumcised in the flesh**, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Circumcision was a sign of the covenant between man and God.

Eight is the number of a new beginning. The Hebrew numerical value of Jesus's name is 888. Circumcision is connected with a new beginning. A new covenant between man and God. It symbolises the putting off of the flesh and the putting on of the spirit.

The flesh:

Without circumcision in the flesh, they could not inherit Gods promises through His covenant. They would be cut off from receiving the promises if they had not been circumcised in the flesh. The generation in the wilderness, Moses' generation, failed to maintain Gods ordinance of circumcision. If the flesh was allowed to remain in place, they could not inherit Gods promises. The flesh had to be removed by circumcision, by cutting it off. The flesh was the deciding factor in the covenant between God and man.

As Christians, we may not be under law any more. We will never have to face Gods judgement for sin any more and come under condemnation. We are guaranteed a place in heaven for all of eternity because all our sins past present and future have been forgiven and our enemies will tremble when they hear about what God has done for us, because they fear us. BUT, if we don't get rid of the fleshly behaviour in our lives, we will not be able to receive and experience what God has for us now on earth.

Question: What sort of behaviours would you class as fleshly?

The works of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21 Living bible. But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, **20** idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group—and there will be wrong doctrine, **21** envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.



My Body has desires, my soul has desires. Satan will try to produce in my body and soul thoughts and feelings that are designed to make me want to go after those thoughts and feelings and carry them out in order to satisfy them.

Let's look at what James tells us about the process involved in temptation.

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14but each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James doesn't mention satan directly here as he is pointing out the responsibility for sin lies with the individual, not satan. But the temptation is an act of enticement upon the desires of the flesh. Satan is known as the great tempter. The wording "by his own desires" actually means "through the agency of" or "by means of". In other words, satan appeals to the desires of our flesh, stirs up within our bodies and souls emotions and feelings which are being used to drag us away from Gods ways, His plans and purposes for our life and to serve satan instead.

E.G. When that person says something horrible about you and a feeling rises up within you and the thoughts that goes with it is, "tell them where to go" or "how dare they, i'm gonna slap them one". Or you see your husband or wife, girlfriend or boyfriend chatting to someone else and you think, "who's that", and then jealousy begins to rise up in side you, and you start wanting to go and find out whats going on. You get restless and suspicious, even angry with them.

Now, Looking back at Romans 8, let's look at Pauls explanation of what makes people sin.

Romans 8:5-6. 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. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Then compared with

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Question : What experiences have you had that would relate to what we are talking about regarding the way thoughts have affected your emotions and sought to push you into behaving badly?

Back to Joshua for more symbolisms.

Joshua 5 : 1-3 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites. 2At that time the



LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." 3So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

Joshua is the Hebrew word for Jesus. He is a type of Jesus.

Flint. Flint is symbolic of absolute resolve and determination.

Joshua was instructed to cut off the flesh of Gods people using flint. With great resolve and determination he was being led to get rid of, or PUT OFF the flesh.

A prophecy of Jesus going to His crucifixion.

Isaiah 50 : 6-7 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. 7Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face **like flint**, and I know I will not be put to shame.

Jesus with absolute resolve has done something supernatural for us that we could never do for ourselves. He put off the body of His flesh, once, for all mankind.

Colossians 2: 9For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. 11In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. 13When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Jesus didn't just save us from an eternity in hell and from our sins. He actually performed a spiritual circumcision on us, cutting away the flesh from our spirit, setting us completely free from its power to control us through its use by satan. Jesus did a complete and thorough job on us when we got saved.

Our responsibility.

Romans 6: 5If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- 7because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11In the same way, reckon yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.



Romans 12: 1Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2Do 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.

There is a responsibility on our part to walk in what God has done for us. To put off the flesh. To not follow its desires, its demands. We as christians get all caught up with what we should or shouldn't do because it's wrong and it's bad etc. Which is right to do that, but, do we realise that it's about more than that. We are fighting a battle with an unseen enemy that doesn't want us to receive what God has for us.

Romans 6 : 15 -16 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Colossians 3: 5-14. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Conclusion.

It's all about control. If satan can get you to walk after the desires of your body and soul, he gets to decide where you go in life and what you will experience. For the wages of sin is death. This in turn prevents us from walking in what the lord has for us and receiving His promise of our eternal inheritance in him.



Questions :

A/. Explain what it means to be made in the image of God as it declares in Genesis 1 : 27.

B/. What are some of the old testament symbols that reveal this truth. ?

Answers:

A/. Made in Gods image. God, father son and spirit.

Adam. Dirt (body), breath (spirit), living being (soul). Body soul and spirit.

B/. The tabernacle of Moses and the temple of Solomon.

Gods desire was and is to live in the Holy of hollies in mankind's spirit. Our bodies then become His temple on earth.

Question : C/. What did Paul say made up the flesh part of our make up?

Answer:

C/. The body and the soul.

Question : D/. Who can remember what the different functions are of the body, soul and spirit?

Answer:

D/. The body has 5 senses, sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste.

The Soul. Three functions. Mind, will, emotions.

The Spirit. Three functions. Intuition, communion and conscience.

