

When the Soul and Spirit are at Odds

The soul and the spirit are two of a kind to fit together like hand and glove. The glove was never intended to direct the hand but the hand was made to direct the glove. When the glove determines to lead the hand, it shows forth a lack of respect for the hand. These two are fundamentally different insofar as their callings are concerned. The hand was created to serve and the glove was made to cover the hand to keep it from destructive natural elements. The hand focuses on solving problems while the glove focuses on explaining them. The glove can not solve its problems because the glove, working from the outside in, was not made for that high order work. To solve problems, the worker must see the problem with an inside view, as does the hand. When the hand and glove are unified, they work to bring about the necessary changes always aimed at finding solutions to those things that seek to hinder the hand's serving duty.

When the soul and spirit are at odds, it is like the relationship between the glove and the hand. The soul was created in the likeness of God but the spirit in God's very image. Man is capable of receiving God in his human spirit because God is a Spirit (Jo.4:24). The soul has the ability to join in this relationship (God and human spirit) but can only do so by submission to the human spirit, the same requirement the human spirit exhibits in its relationship with God. Because the will is found in the soul, the soul can choose unity with the spirit and thus with God or it can rebel and set a course estranged from the human spirit and ultimately, from God. The estrangement from God is the problem and Christ is the solution. To be sure, It's not the problem that counts; it's the solution.

It's not the Problem that Counts, it's the Solution

I met a young lady during my heavenly journey that had been oppressed for some time. She worked at the hotel where I was staying and is a student in college majoring in hospitality management. Her specific problem was not discussed with me, nevertheless I knew by the Spirit what she was facing. I spoke deliverance unto to her from the words of a song I wrote a few years ago showing her that: "It's Not the Problem that counts: It's the Solution". As I later meditated on what I shared with her, it became clear that I had revealed unto her the action both the glove and the soul must take to right their respective relationships. The song answered the relationship gone amuck between these two.

The Glove (soul) had enslaved the Hand (human spirit) over a period of time, but did not realize that the spirit was graced with understanding born of wisdom from above. One day, the Hand (spirit) said to the Glove (soul): "You can't see how I've grown; you think I'm weak but I'm strong. I know where you went wrong". The Glove (soul) responded: "You're nothing but an instrument suited to serve your master. Who are you to tell me what I know or don't know? There is no growth in you. If there were, you would not be playing second fiddle to me. You speak of strength but you're a wimp". To this the Hand (spirit) replied: "I respected you every day; taking abuses without pay; all I did was

pray”. The Glove (soul) responded: Yes, you respected me because you knew I would bring the hammer down on you if you didn’t. You took the abuses as you called them because you were weak. Your pay was the righteous judgment that I heaped upon your head”. Not to be deterred from his nature, the Hand went on to tell the Glove: “Standing firm in your perfection; oh, how you hate rejection; not seeing your regression? Where upon, the Glove replied, “You better believe I’m standing firm in my perfection and I indeed reject every thing that’s unlike me. As for regression, that’s a figment of your imagination”.

With a loud voice, the Hand (overcomer) and Spirit (GOMA) cried out in unison: “We have come to this conclusion; It’s not the problem that counts; it’s not the problem that counts; it’s the solution. They went on to say: The answer is not exclusion; it’s inclusion. This is not evolution; it’s revolution”. Lacking a reply, the Glove (rebellious person) and Soul (evil spirit) turned from the conversation in a state of rage.

The next day when I saw the young lady who had been oppressed for such a long time, she was full of smiles and as I spoke to her she told me that she had to strain to keep back tears from flowing from her eyes. Before I could inquire as to what she was saying, she told me that the words that I spoke unto her on the day before brought about deliverance in her even to the point that she now realizes that she must cease focusing on the problem and begin to focus on the solution. This having been conveyed, I was then able to show her the spiritual aspect of the words that I spoke unto her on the previous day. She received the teaching with gladness of heart. It was on this same day that the Spirit spoke to me that morning that I would “go out today”.

Up to this point, I had remained at the hotel, which was in the mountains about 2 miles from downtown Port of Spain, Trinidad’s largest city. The problem in this instance was rain and the weather report called for a wet day. As I felt sleepy, I took a short nap that morning and upon awakening it was still raining but not as much as earlier. As I walked down to the entrance of the hotel, I was told that I could walk to the city but not today because of the rain. My focus shifted from the rain to the word of the Spirit spoken to me that I would “go out today”. In the light rain, I headed for the city only to discover that I had to traverse a steep downslope about a quarter of a mile long. Right away, the thought occurred to me that the same downslope would turn to an upslope on my return. Nevertheless I continued and as I did I noticed the rain stopped and half an hour later I was in downtown Port of Spain. I walked and walked remembering the word from the Lord before leaving for the ministry that where ever I walked during the heavenly journey, people would be blessed. So I walked until the Spirit directed me to turn around and head back to the hotel. It took me about five minutes longer to return to the hotel than going, a bit out of breath but otherwise ok. As I walked to the entrance of the hotel, the rain started up again and continued the rest of the day. Thank God that I did not focus on the rain (problem) but the solution (word of God) that I would “go out today”.

Man and Nature at Odds

The incident of the young lady with a problem she could not solve in her own strength and the weather problem I was faced serve as a point of departure in my discussion of the estranged relationship between man and nature. To be clear, God created man in an environment called nature. "Before the plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown", God made the earth and heaven (Gen.2:4-5). Man was nowhere to be found at this point. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; man became a living being" (soul) (v.7). The Lord God created man in His image and likeness: "male and female He created them" (Gen.1:27). God's next move was to plant a garden and put the man in it (Gen2:8). "Out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (v.9). Both man and nature were in agreement with God's plan for them. Man was God's steward to keep the garden (v.15). As the keeper of the garden, man could eat of every tree in the garden that was "good for food". God's work was good and even very good (Gen. 1:31). In the environment called nature, man would learn about the ways of God as he submitted to God's will. God's man was a "Hand" (spirit) to nature serving nature with continuous life. Nature was a "Glove" (soul) on man's Hand ever ready to do God's will. Man was given authority to subdue anything in his kingdom that got out of line (v.28). The one thing that man could not do and continue to live was disobey God's word to not eat of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen.2: 16).

Man is made up of three components: spirit, soul and body. God also is revealed unto us as: Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The human spirit of Adam was created in the image of God and Adam's soul in God's likeness. In a true sense, Adam's soul was a "son" to his spirit. The body of Adam served as the "house" to his soul and spirit or the outward expression of God's work just as the Holy Ghost is the outward expression of God's work. Viewed in this light, the heart of Adam can be seen as God's garden where the tree of life could be found in the midst thereof. Also in Adam could be found his soul. As the soul was a "son" unto Adam's spirit, the soul had to be perfected in the things of the spirit. The soul was therefore required to eat of every tree in the garden that was "good for food". Only one tree was not good for food and it was a natural tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God did not say that the *tree was both good and evil*, but rather eating from it would provide a natural worldview consisting of knowledge of things good and evil. This knowledge would be contrary to what God wanted his man to acquire because the natural tree was rooted in wickedness and Adam's soul was not yet fully matured though his spirit was a mature spirit. Because Adam's spirit was a mature spirit, the spirit was able to bring the soul to its level. But the spirit needed agreement from Adam's soul to bring it up to the perfect spirit's level.

I have shown that nature was part of God's good and very good work and that man was given the authority to keep nature full of the life of God. Standing in man's way was the quintessential natural one, Satan. In reviewing what has been written regarding Lucifer's fall, we can see why God did not want Adam to eat of the natural tree. Before the fall of Lucifer, there was perfect agreement with God's work. God was a Hand (Spirit) to Lucifer and Lucifer was a Glove (soul) on God's hand doing good until he rebelled.

Ezekiel has written that Lucifer was “the anointed cherub who covers” (Ez.28:14). A cherub is a leading angel of God as seen in the designation “who covers”. Like Adam was a Hand or covering to nature, Lucifer served in the same role to the angels under him. Lucifer, however, was not satisfied with his exalted status. Ezekiel goes on to say that “God established Lucifer and that he had been on the holy mountain of God. He had walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones” (V.14). The fiery stones gave Lucifer a hint of God’s wealth. Ezekiel went on to write, “You (Lucifer) was perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you” (v.15)’. Lucifer’s heart was lifted up because of the glorious status God had given him and he desired God’s wealth. Isaiah has written: “For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of the God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High” (Is.14:13-14). The sin of Lucifer caused him to fall and with him one third of the angels (Rev.12:4).

Inasmuch as Lucifer was created, he was natural: for all created beings and things are natural. God alone is Spirit and born again ones to whom He gives His Spirit. As for Adam, his human spirit was created in God’s image and it was capable of leading the soul to that same level. The devil, not able to gain God’s kingdom, having fallen due to the wicked thought of his heart, set out to wrest the kingdom from Adam. This was a fight between spirit vs. soul referred to as flesh in Paul’s writings (Gal.5:16-26). Again the soul is like the spirit but it is natural requiring rebirth. Satan did not go direct at Adam to gain what he wanted. Nor was his first approach against the woman or Eve. Instead, he seduced the serpent and through the serpent he approached Eve with a word contrary to that God had spoken to Adam about not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve gave her heart to the contrary word and introduced the same to Adam whereupon he agreed and this brought about his fall and all that God had given him (Gen.3:1-19). Genesis 1: 28 tell us that God gave man dominion over nature including the fish of the sea, birds of the air “and over every living thing that moves on the earth”. In that same verse, we see where Adam was to “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it”. In other words, the earth was not a ruler over Adam; to the contrary, Adam was given authority of it.

When Jesus was anointed Christ, he was faced with a test involving the devil who took him up to a high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the world. He offered to give Jesus Christ the kingdoms if he would bow down to him, saying: “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me (by Adam’s sin) and I give it to whomever I wish” (Lk.4:6). Adam did not only give up the kingdoms of the world, he gave up authority over hurricanes, floods, electrical storms, etc. We see as much when Jesus called Satan, the prince of this world (Jo.14:30) and Paul referred to him as the prince of the power of the air (Eph.2:2). Satan could not have gained these titles in the kingdom God gave unto Adam but that Adam delivered them to him. To be sure, there was no such thing as nature vs. man in Adam’s kingdom before the fall. There was only good; the two were in perfect harmony. Adam did not so much as know what evil was and could not die save for disobedience to God’s word not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Restoration of All Things

There is time and season for all things. From the fall of Adam, God allowed the soul of man to operate as if it were the Hand and man's spirit, the Glove, the reverse of God's original plan for man. After the fall of Adam, God allowed the "natural tree" to flourish. During this time, God worked a plan to restore all things back to their pristine condition. He made a way for man to worship Him even as the soul continue to rebel. In due course of time, He sent forth His only begotten Son to redeem man back unto Him. Paul wrote: "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, To redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Ga.4:4). Peter preached the first message to the church after the resurrection. Among the things preached, Peter told the people to: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that time of refreshing my come from the presence of the Lord" (Ac.3:19). The long rebellious work of the soul over the spirit was drawing to a close. There was hope for man; God had spoken by His prophets. Peter said, "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (v.21).

The restoration of all things spoke to all God gave Adam authority over before the fall. The earth and the heavens would be renovated; the beast of the field, fish of the sea and the birds of the air would return to their original state. The mountains would no longer explode, giving rise to earth quakes; heaven would not issue forth destructive storms; and the sea would be still. Moreover, man would be changed from a soul dominating rebellious creature to a humble and submissive spirit before his God. As indicated above, Jesus Christ was the only one who could bring about the restoration work. Once he had overcome death, the authority to overcome the world, the flesh, the devil and even death was given to his church, which is his body. After the resurrection, Jesus spoke to the disciples, saying: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Mt.28:18). He then sent them to the world to preach the gospel, saying "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk.16:16). The rebellious soul was given opportunity to make things right with his Maker, but his Maker would not force the soul into submission. The soul had to show forth contrition and a will to accept God's plan of redemption. To encourage the soul to do the right thing, Jesus Christ gave the soul signs of a believer, saying, "And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; They will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will not by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover (vv.17-18). Moreover, the church was given binding and loosing power that whatsoever was bound in the earth was bound in heaven and what was loosed in the earth was loosed in heaven (Mt.18:18).

The authority from God that passed to Jesus Christ was now given to the church and through the church; the restoration of all things would take place. The church could only do the restoration work by remaining attached to the vine of Christ. The life of the church was in God's Christ; this was the tree spoken of above that was in the midst of the

garden; the tree of life. As Adam had to eat from the tree of life to live and not from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, so must the church. The church proved faithful in her work until she submitted to the Roman king Constantine around 312 AD. The once pristine, humble church that served as God's Hand in the restoration of all things became a glove on the enemy's hand to do his biddings necessitating the second coming of Christ.

The second coming of Christ returned the church to the foundation message preached by the apostles, which is: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Mt.16:16). The works of God to heal, baptize, cast of devils were not attempted in "Jesus name", but Christ was connected to Jesus not as an office or function but rather as the wisdom and power of God (1Co.1:24). Moreover, the second coming of Christ lifted the church from the power ministry of the early church to the overcoming power ministry. The overcoming power ministry cannot be reached until the child of God is grounded in the first principles of the doctrines of Christ. With the church leaving off Christ, the wisdom and power of God, in her preaching to elevate Jesus, the church had failed to go on to perfection as commanded by God (see He.6:1-3). With the restoration of her overcoming power, the church is on course to not only overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, but also to overcome death, her last enemy.