

Body


Soul

Spirit

A Work in Progress

In Creation

When God created man, He created him in His image, a trinity [three-part*] image. Among other things, that means we reflect the Trinity of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Physically stated in the Old Testament, "And God said, Let Us make man in **Our image**, after **Our likeness**... So God created man **in His own image**, in the image of God created He him... and the Lord God [1] **formed** man of the dust of the ground [body], and [2] breathed into his nostrils the **breath** of life [spirit]; and man became [3] a living **soul**."¹ **Spiritually stated in the New Testament**, "And the very God of peace sanctify you **wholly**; and I pray God your **whole** [1] spirit and [2] soul and [3] body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."²

*All of creation is in a "trinity" pattern, acknowledging God: **matter** is solids, liquids and gases; **time** is past, present and future, etc. This pattern is observable in all areas of truth (natural or spiritual).

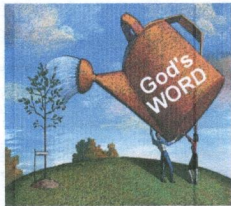
In Redemption

Therefore, God's redemption must redeem all three parts of us, and it does, but not all at the same time. Of **the three aspects of redemption**, in the life of a truly born-again believer, only the second aspect is **presently** "a work in progress".

Your Spirit: The first aspect of redemption is all **past and completed** at the point of your initial act of faith in accepting Christ as your personal Savior. In that moment, you were **sealed** by God's Holy Spirit in your spirit. The Bible says when, you "first trusted in Christ... in whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your **salvation**: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed** with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the **earnest** [down payment] of our inheritance **until the redemption of the purchased possession**, unto the praise of His glory [the third aspect]."³ "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby **ye are sealed unto the day of redemption**."⁴ "Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; who hath also **sealed us**, and given the **earnest** of the Spirit in our hearts."⁵ This **first aspect of redemption** is what the Bible is referring to when it says, "Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin."⁶ This is true of **the first aspect of redemption** only. This **first aspect** is **the doctrine of salvation**. It is a past, 100% completely saved fact of your saving faith when you trusted Christ.

Your Body: The third aspect of redemption is all **future**. This is **the doctrine of glorification**. "And not only *they* [*all creation*], but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit [the first aspect], even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting** for the adoption, *to wit*, **the redemption of our body**."⁷ Your body, right now, is 100% **not** saved. All believers will get a glorified body.

Your Soul: The second aspect of redemption, a present tense directive to the “**soul**” [our life, self]. This is **the doctrine of sanctification**. When the Bible says, “...**work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling,” it is only speaking in **the present tense**, the **second aspect of redemption**. This has nothing to do with getting to Heaven or gaining eternal life (that was paid in full by our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ). **The second aspect of redemption** is all about not wasting your life on carnal and worldly living. It is about holy living under the leadership of the Spirit of God, who now lives in you. It is about **growing in the Word of God**, in the way of God and in the work for God. The judgment of God on your sin was completely and totally handled by the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. There is nothing left to pay. Jesus paid it all.



What **the second aspect of redemption** is offering is only to the born-again child of God. Your life will only be judged to determine “**rewards**” for holy living and Spirit controlled service. When you read in the Bible the “**let us**” statements, they are a directive to you, as a believer, **to live and to grow**. Your focus should be on growth.

