

Inside the Soul



Richard A. Bennett

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Introduction

The soul is the essence of who I really am. It is composed of my emotion, my mind and my will. The soul is eternal and will live forever whether in heaven or in hell.

When I was first born-again, Ian Thomas came to our house and I heard him say, "I would rather travel around the world to lead one young fellow to Christ, than I would come into a million dollars overnight." That is the value the Lord Jesus places on the soul of each individual person. "*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*" Matthew 16:26.

For the born-again believer, the Holy Spirit takes His residence within the soul. This leads us to a somber question: How much of my life is explained in soulish activity and how much of it is explained by the power and enabling of the Holy Spirit who now dwells in me?

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“The word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart”

Hebrews 4:12. In other words, the Word of God is the Diagnostician revealing the difference between what we do and why we do it. Motives can easily nullify actions!

When Dorothy and I were engaged in England, there was a 100% purchase tax on jewelry, but not on pre-owned rings. So what do you think we did? Yes, you are right, I purchased a pre-owned ring from the jeweler which we both liked. The ring was handed to us in a little velvet black box. When Dorothy returned to her nursing position, she did not pull out the box and say, “Look what Richard gave me!” No, she displayed the beautiful ring on her finger and shared the happy news that we were engaged. Why is it that so many of us spend our time, attention and money on the little black box—the body, and not on the jewel inside the box—the soul? We feed the body with healthy food, we exercise it, we clothe it

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with the most attractive garments possible, we take it to the doctors when needed, but the soul remains ignored and impoverished!

“Inside the Soul” presents a biblical evaluation of what God knows about us and our basic defaults. It takes the reader from fear, to faith, to glory as we "Go for Gold." I pray it will be of spiritual enrichment and encouragement to the reader as it has been to the writer.

Richard A. Bennett.

Fear!

In the beginning, mankind was created to be dependent upon God. Accordingly, a transparent fellowship of light and love existed between created man and his Creator, God.



A far-reaching tragedy penetrated the human race when Adam and Eve became independent of God and dependent upon themselves. Though God did not move away from Adam, Adam moved away from God: *“The Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? Adam answered and said, “I heard Thy voice . . . and I was afraid”* Genesis 3:9-10. Adam lost his vital communion with God and his assigned dominion over the earth. Now the *“god of this world”* made him

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fearful. Likewise, today, men's hearts are failing them for fear. But, for the believer: "*God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*"

2 Timothy 1:7.

Faith and fear cannot co-exist! Fear springs from insecurity; insecurity produces anger; anger spawns hostility; hostility leads to irrational and fateful decisions. This is the tragic path resulting in both domestic and international tension.

The secret of a panic-proof life! The old hymn says: "Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then have nothing else to fear." Yes, a life that is rooted in God and centered in Christ, is panic-proof!

When my self-life is broken at the cross, I can appropriately say: "O how I fear Thee, living God, with deepest, tenderest fears, and worship Thee with trembling hope and penitential tears." F.W. Faber.

For the unbeliever, in spite of the counterfeit of personal psychological counsel and international peace accords:

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“The way of peace have they not known [because] there is no fear of God before their eyes” Romans 3:17-18. **For the believer**, as never before, we need to stand by faith in His triumph and in a living communion with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eyes!



The eye is a miracle of God's creative genius! This delicate and precisely designed instrument of sight can either incite **passion** or inspire **compassion**.

Monkey see, monkey do! This was never more apparent to Dorothy and me than when we were on the rooftop of "The Lighthouse for Christ Eye Clinic" in Mombasa, Kenya. There we shared Bible teaching with 500 people. A sunshield of intertwined branches gave protection from the equatorial sun. Seated on these branches was a mother monkey with her five babies. As we sang songs of praise, children rhythmically shook a small can with a bean inside and the baby monkeys saw and copied their actions. Then,

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as the congregation quietly sat for the message, mother monkey chattered to her children and they immediately did likewise. Monkey see, monkey do!

Passion: Samson saw and Samson did! His problem was his eyes: “*He saw a woman in Timnath.*” Returning to his godly parents he said: “*I have seen a woman in Timnath of the Philistines . . . Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well*” Judges 14:1-3.

The Philistines were the enemies of Israel, and, ostensibly Samson went to “*seek occasion against the Philistines*” Judges 14:4. Tragically, Samson was flirting with the very people he should have been fighting. A good looking woman who beguiled him with her beauty later betrayed him after she became his bride!

A seared conscience inevitably leads to licentious behavior. The slippery slope that led to Samson’s public scandal was now in place. Samson “*went to Gaza and saw an harlot and went in unto her*” Judges 16:1. Later Samson met Delilah and her seduction spelt his demise.

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In Samson's exploits for the Lord, the secret of his super-human strength was "*the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.*" While still in his mother's womb, God told his parents that Samson was to be a Nazarite: This meant he was to be separated unto God. The sign of this separation was long hair.

After Delilah seduced Samson into sharing the secret of his strength, she cut his hair and the Spirit of God no longer came upon him. Then, *the Philistines took him, bound him and put out his eyes*" Judges 16:21. Never again did Samson look upon a woman to lust! But tragically, the Philistines made sacrifices unto their god, Dagon, and said: "*Our god hath delivered Samson, our enemy into our hands*" Judges 16:23.

The Lord Jesus, whom we love and serve, is daily judged by compromised Christian lives!

After Samson's eyes were dealt with, "*And, the hairs of his head began to grow again*" Judges 16:22, then Samson prayed: "*Strengthen me, I pray Thee only this once . . . Let*

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me die with the Philistines [total expendability] so the dead whom he slew at his death were more than they whom he slew in his life” Judges 16:30.

Job testified: *“I have made a covenant with mine eyes, why should I then think upon a maid?”* Job 31:1. King David wrote: *“I will set no wicked thing before my eyes”* Psalm 101:3. Thomas Elwood wrote: *“O that mine eyes might closed be to what concerns me not to see!”*

Now is the time for believers to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. How? *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee”* Psalm 119:11. *“Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”* Galatians 5:16. This means we can, *“Put on the new man, which is created in righteousness and true holiness.”* Ephesians 4:24.

Compassion: When we put on the *“new man,”* a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit will produce overflowing love and fruitful witness instead of the covetous eyes mentality—*“I see it, I must have it!”*

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Such is only possible by the enabling and indwelling power of the Risen Lord. Only when His love is shed abroad in our heart, will we experience His continued compassion for lost men and women, boys and girls.

Let me look at the crowds as my Savior did,
Until my **eyes with tears** grow dim.
Let me look until I see the wondering sheep,
And love them for love of Him.

With a soul blood-bought and a heart aglow,
Redeemed of the Lord and free,
I ask as I pass down the busy street,
Is it only a crowd I see?

Do I lift my eyes with a careless gaze,
That pierces no deep-down woe,
Have I naught to give to the teeming throng
Of the wealth of the love I know? R.A. Jarvie.

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Chapter Three



The brain can be likened to a precisely engineered luxury car. The mind can be likened to the driver who sits at the wheel of the car. It is the driver who determines to turn on the ignition and decide the direction and the destiny of the vehicle.

Only our Creator God can x-ray our thoughts. Unlike the brain, which is a physical organ, the mind is a metaphysical reality. To blame the brain and ignore the mind, is the wrong way to explain and excuse deviant behavior which the Bible describes as sin.

As a young man my father wrote to me: "*Whatsoever*

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things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” Philippians 4:8.

A humble mind: *“Let this **mind** be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, **He humbled Himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* Philippians 2:5-8. The Lord Jesus, co-equal with God, portrayed His genuine humility of mind when He was willing to humble Himself, **and became a servant.**

Knowing, *“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble”* James 4:6. Therefore: *“Humble yourselves . . . under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time”* 1 Peter 5:6. Self-humbling will mean that, *“nothing be done through strife or vain glory,”* and that

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we no longer look, “*on our own things, but . . . on the things of others*” Philippians 2:3-4. Accordingly, God’s promise is: “*That He may exalt you in due time.*”

Only in such a way, will the preaching of the Word and the witnessing of the believer, be explained by the overflow of His Resurrection Life in reaching a sin-drenched world.

However, if our understanding of Truth is only cognitive, a knowledge of the Bible, or doctrine or even eschatology, it will reach the brain but bypass the mind resulting in lack of spiritual reality. “*The Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it*” Hebrews 4:2.

If our mind does not delight to focus on heavenly things, then our conversations and actions will respond accordingly. As James wrote: “*purify your hearts, ye double-minded*” James 4:8.

Yes, the mind will follow the affections of the heart, so “*if ye then be risen with Christ . . . set your affection on things above, not on things on this earth*” Colossians 3:1-2.

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A whole-hearted mind: *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy **mind**”* Matthew 22:37.

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I think and say.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

Kate B. Wilkinson.

“For I know Whom [not what] I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day” 2 Timothy 1:12.

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Chapter 4



A group of us young converts initiated a series of open-air meetings at 10 p.m. when the pubs were discharging their drinkers. When I stood on a soapbox and preached, hecklers assembled! One of them shouted a superficial question that was meant to deflect the message, "Where did Cain get his wife?" I gave an equally superficial answer, "From his mother-in-law!"

The fact is that when an intellectual problem is posed, it is generally not rooted in the mind but in the will and the desires. The Lord Jesus said, "*If any man will [desires] to do His will, he shall **know** the doctrine, whether it be of God*" John 7:17. The desires speak of emotions 'to do' speaks of the will, 'shall know' speaks of the mind.

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Sometimes, when talking to a person who professes to have intellectual and doctrinal problems as a reason for doubting the infallibility of the Bible, I have often replied, “If I was able to satisfactorily answer all your questions, would you then receive Christ as Lord and commit your life to Him?” Their reluctant answer reveals the real problem is not in their mind but in their will and desire.

Humanistic mindset: Sadly, a spirit of delusion has also permeated the minds of many professing Christians. To the church of Ephesus, Paul wrote: “*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*” Ephesians 1:17.

A living spiritual knowledge of, and fellowship with the Lord Jesus, is not attained by human calculation but by divine revelation.

“O give me Samuel’s mind! A sweet un murmuring faith, obedient and resigned, to Thee in life and death; That I may read with child-like eyes, truths that are hidden from the wise.” James Burns.

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The children of Israel were deceived by the Gideonites. They made a fateful decision because they, “*asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord*” Joshua 9:14. For us all, every day is full of decisions, some of them small and some of them very significant. What controls your decision-making process? Is it based on the Word of God or on emotions and self-pleasing opportunities?

Prayer is not me bending God’s will to mine, but me bending my will to the will of God: “*O Lord: give me understanding according to Thy word*” Psalm 119:169. “*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to **do** according to all that is written therein*” Joshua 1:8.

To bathe our mind with the consistent reading and application of the Word of God, is God’s way of preconditioning our thoughts to make choices according to His will. That being so, we continue to read: “*for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*”

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“Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways! Re-clothe us in our rightful mind; In purer love Thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.” John Whittier.

To be clothed with a rightful mind and to experience the overflow of God’s love in service, is the desire of many a believer.

But how? “*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live*” Romans 8:13.

Yes, “*the just shall live by faith*” Romans 1:17. This requires that, “*by the mercies of God, ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service*” Romans 12:1.

It is only by the mercies of God, that our self-centered, sin-infected lives are accepted because of the shed blood of Jesus. It is not the gift that sanctifies the altar, it is the altar that sanctifies the gift and then uses it for His glory! This means that we are no longer: “*conformed to this world: but ... transformed by the **renewing of ‘our’***”

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mind.” And, praise the Lord, we will then “*prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*”

Romans 12:2.

Again Paul wrote: “*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind*” Ephesians 4:23. This will involve a complete change of attire! “***Put off!***” and “***Put on!***” When teaching students in multiple Bible colleges and seminaries, I would sometimes say, “Take in a deep breath and hold it.” Then I would say, “Take in another deep breath!” They would explode as the bad air gushed out of their lungs. Today, it is a joy to breath in the all-sufficient grace and enabling life of the Risen Christ! However, we must first breathe out all our self-centeredness and sin at the foot of the cross.

Paul continues: “***Put off*** concerning the former conversation [manner of life] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.” Followed by: “*And be renewed, in the spirit of your mind; and that you Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” Ephesians 4:22,24.

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Yes, it is better to 'be' than to 'know'!

“Open my mind that I may read, more of Thy love in word and deed: What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead. Only for light from Thee I plead.” Clara Scott.

Please join me in the following prayer:

“Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You in the name of my beloved Lord and Savior. I earnestly pray that, through Your Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit, You will quicken my conscience until it feels the loathsomeness of sin and self-seeking. Also, that You will renew my mind that I may: ‘See You more clearly: Love You more dearly, and: Follow You more nearly’. I ask this in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and for His glory. Amen, and Amen!”



There are two types of gold. There is the intrinsic earthly gold which is valued in 'karats' ranging from 10K to 24K. The higher the purity the greater the value. There is also the eternal gold which is of inestimable value.

The ancient city of Laodicea was very affluent. Sadly, the cultural value system of that city had penetrated the Church: "*I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing*" Revelation 3:17. The 'Divine Diagnostician' said of this church: Thou "*knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked*" Revelation 3:17.

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When we are introduced to ourselves and discover the kind of people we really are, it is a very humbling experience. But, after the Lord Jesus has exposed our need, He offers to replace our deficiency: *“I counsel thee to buy of Me **gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be rich; [true spiritual value] and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; [true spiritual virtue] and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see [true spiritual vision]”*

Revelation 3:18.

The object of our new life in Christ is to enjoy intimate fellowship with the Lord: *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, I will come into him, and sup with him, and he with Me”* Revelation 3:20. *“He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, **I shall come forth as gold**”* Job 23:10.

Value: It is only as our personal faith is tried and found faithful, that our gold is refined: *“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth”* 1 Peter 1:7. And, *“The fining pot is for silver, and*

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the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts”

Proverbs 17:3.

Also, *“He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver . . . and purge them as gold and silver that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness”* Malachi 3:3.

Virtue: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be an occasion of great joy: *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready, and to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints”* Revelation 19:7-8. White linen and righteousness stand in vivid contrast to the bizarre, sex appeal clothing seen today!

Vision: *“Where there is no vision, the people perish”* Proverbs 29:18. Accordingly, let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us an understanding of the incredible value the Lord places on each and every human soul. Surely, as a result

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we will affirm: “*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . .*” 2 Corinthians 5:11.

There is a vast difference between befriending and persuading an unconverted person. When we lovingly befriend a person they will be drawn to us. But let us not stop there. To persuade a person to trust the Savior, might mean we lose a friendship. When did you last lovingly ‘persuade’ a person to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior?

In the middle of an Egyptian pyramid there are astonishing riches of a deceased Pharaoh. Among these riches are bars of totally refined, **transparent gold**. In his vision of the New Jerusalem, the eternal home of every blood-bought child of God, John described: “. . . *the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass*” Revelation 21:21.

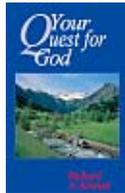
Dorothy and I earnestly invite you to join us on our marathon pilgrimage of **‘going for gold’**. A few months after my conversion, I concluded my testimony in poetry by writing:

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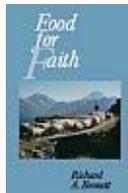
Yes, Thy cross was Thy glorious plan,
(Though I see how unworthy I am)
'Tis there I behold Thy riches untold,
'Tis there **my dross is transmuted to gold.**
The light of Thy love I'll always esteem,
Now cleansed by His blood,
Let me walk in His beam!

-Richard A. Bennett.

Further books by Richard A. Bennett:



“Your Quest for God” is much sought after in multiple languages both for personal help and as a tool for personal witness.



“Food for Faith” is a biblical manual written to help you digest the Word of God from your hand - to your head - to your heart!

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“The Love of God” - True ‘love’ can only be experienced through us as, *“The Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.”*



“By My Spirit” “If the passion of your life is Christ expression, then the Holy Spirit will ensure that others will see the lovely Lord Jesus in you and the overflow will hide you.”



“Revival Now?” We encourage you to join us in prayer for a visitation of God resulting in genuine revival at this climactic time.



“Light and Glory” What in the world is going to happen next? This fast-moving book brings us to the triumph of the closing chapter, *“Light and Glory Forever.”*

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