

SPIRITUAL NATURE OF MAN 3

“breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.” At the very heart of New Testament teaching the great apostle describes man as “spirit, soul, and body.” In these passages to which I am only making passing reference it is evident that the Bible recognises the fact that man is essentially spirit. In making reference to the passage in Thesalonians in which the apostle speaks of “spirit, soul, and body,” we need to be careful not to imagine that three absolutely distinct entities are referred to as existing within man’s being. The apostle speaks of the spirit of the soul or mind, and of the body. He begins with the essential, which is the spirit; he then refers to the consciousness, the mind, the soul; and finally to the body. There is the most intimate inter-relation between the three. The spirit is the essential, the body is the expressional, and the mind is the consciousness, which is either spiritual or fleshly, according to whether spirit or flesh is in the ascendant in the life. The distinction between spirit and soul is sharply maintained throughout the Scriptures. In one