

Your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent. (Jeremiah 20:9)

The testimony of JESUS is the spirit of the prophecy. (Revelation 19:10c)

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

08.14.2022

kingdomandglory.com

Zoe-Life—More Than Body, Soul, and Spirit

I like to read a variety of topics from a wide range of sources. Sometimes this leads to topics that challenge conventional thinking. What follows is in this category and, admittedly, could be a challenge to some. Nevertheless, it is offered for the inquisitive mind to ponder. Food for thought!

Recently, I came across an Eastern Orthodox Church article, *RATIONALISM AND FUNDAMENTALISM—The Two Banes of Western Theology*, that lays out some thoughts on why the ideologies of rationalism and fundamentalism must not be used to understand and interpret scripture. What caught my attention, especially in light of my most recent insight on [Zoe-Life](#), was a quote from Seraphim of Sarov, a Russian ascetic who lived at the Sarov Monastery in the 18th century. You can find quotes from him online. Here's an example: *Where there is God, there is no evil. Everything coming from God is peaceful, healthy and leads a person to the judgment of his own imperfections and humility.*

Now, this is what caught my attention in the article.

St. Seraphim of Sarov, in the Conversation with Motovilov, has this to say about the creation of Adam:

Many explain that when it says in the Bible, “God breathed the breath of life into the face of Adam the first created, — who was created by Him from the dust of the ground,” it must mean that until then there was neither human soul nor spirit in Adam, but only the flesh created from the dust of the ground. This interpretation is wrong, for the Lord created Adam from the dust of the ground with the constitution which our dear little father, the holy Apostle Paul describes: “May your spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Thess. 5:23). And all these parts of our nature were created from the dust of the ground, and Adam was not created dead, but an active being like all the other animate creatures of God living on earth.

The point is that if the Lord God had not breathed afterwards into his face this breath of life (i.e., the grace of our Lord God the Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father and rests in the Son, and is sent into the world for the Son's sake), Adam would have remained without having within him the Holy Spirit Who raises

him to Godlike dignity. However perfect he had been created and superior to all the other creatures of God, as the crown of creation on earth, he would have been just like all the other creatures which though they have a body, soul and spirit, each according to its kind, yet have not the Holy Spirit within them. But when the Lord God breathed into Adam's face the breath of life, then, according to Moses' word, Adam became a living soul (Gen. 2:7), that is, completely and in every way like God, and, like Him, forever immortal. [end quote]

Whether Adam was birthed into creation as an immortal and then lost it, or was dead on arrival, meaning death was inherent in God's restored creation, is a debate among theologians that will be left with them. At any rate, the point made by Seraphim is that Adam was first created like all the other living creatures that had blood coursing through their veins. He was formed, not as a dead hunk of clay but as an animated being with a body, soul, and spirit. In this way, he was not unique from all other creatures, meaning he lacked the image of God. **In order for man to be set apart from all the other creatures and become a living soul, God breathed His holy spirit—the breath of life, His uncreated *zoe-Life*—into Adam. This is what makes the human race unique in God's creation.**

I find this very intriguing, for it distinguishes *the zoe-Life* from the biological life of a body, soul, and spirit. It is the difference between a *nature-animated life* and a *spirit-animated life*. Body, soul, and spirit are not enough; we need to go beyond this to possess the uncreated, infinite life of our Creator. We were formed to possess God's life and this is what makes us imagers of God. As believers in the Lord Jesus who have received His spirit that now dwells in us, we possess *the zoe-Life*, giving us a foretaste of the spirit-animated life that we will one day be fully transformed into as sons of glory in the image of the Son of glory.

Could there have been a gap, even if it was just a blink of an eye, between Adam's formation as a nature-animated being and his receiving the holy spirit, being transformed into a spirit-animated being? Was Jesus' baptism—when the holy spirit came out of heaven and descended upon Him—a type of this? Clearly, this happens to us when Jesus breaks into our life and we receive God's holy spirit that takes up residence in us.

It is *the zoe-life* that blesses us **with** every spiritual blessing and seats us **with** God's Son in the heavenly realm and **marks us out** for placement (adoption) as sons in God's kingdom. It is *the zoe-Life* that is being summoned *today* to rise up in God's people to manifest to a world that is in dire need of rescue. We can't make this happen, but God can. The good news is He is doing it now as He separates light from dark and good from evil.

Arise, shine!