

Awesomely and Wonderfully Made – Part 1

"⁴I praise You, for I am awesomely, wonderfully made! Wonderful are Your works—and my soul knows that very well... ¹⁶Your eyes saw me when I was unformed, and in Your book were written the days that were formed—when not one of them had come to be" (Palm 139: 14-16)... ⁸...I, Adonai, have created it." ⁹Oy, to one who quarrels with his Maker, like a pot among the pots of the earth! Shall the clay say to the potter, "What have you made?" Or does your work say, "It has no handles"? ¹⁰Oy, to him who says to his father, "What have you begotten?" Or to a woman, "What have you born?" (Is. 45:8b-10)

Identifying a Problem

Adonai created everything and His creation is perfect. We are told in Psalm 139 that *"we are awesomely, wonderfully made! Wonderful are Your works."* Yet we (His creation) struggle with inferiority and self-acceptance and we struggle often. The world recognizes this problem: *Though related, self-acceptance is not the same as self-esteem. Whereas self-esteem refers specifically to how valuable, or worthwhile, we see ourselves, self-acceptance alludes to a far more global affirmation of self. When we're self-accepting, we're able to embrace all facets of ourselves—not just the positive, more "esteem-able" parts. As such, self-acceptance is unconditional, free of any qualification. We can recognize our weaknesses, limitations, and foibles, but this awareness in no way interferes with our ability to fully accept ourselves.*¹ Do you know that there is such a thing as Biblical Self-Acceptance? Biblical Self-Acceptance is the overcoming of the Spirit of Inferiority and Self-Rejection.

Most people suffer from various forms of inferiority / poor self-acceptance. Even the attitude of superiority is evidence of feeling inferior. Those who have developed an attitude of superiority have done so by limiting their circle of comparison to humans. Inferiority often comes by comparing our unchangeable, God-given features with others. If we compare our height, parents, or race with that of others, we make them the standard of acceptability, rather than *Yeshua*. The result of comparison with others is usually a rejection of our own *unchangeables*; therefore, we are warned that to measure ourselves by others is unwise (i.e., stupidity) (*See 2 Cor. 10:12*). When we reject the design of our unchangeable features, we have difficulty accepting the Designer as a personal, loving Heavenly Father who wants the best for us. Therefore, an understanding of why *Adonai* made us the way He did and a commitment to accept *Adonai's* design is vital to our relationship and our daily walk with Him.

Let me ask a basic question; if, for example, a person shows signs of self-rejection, such as an over attention to dress, mocking others' physical features, or excessive shyness, they should answer the following question: *If you had the power to change anything about your appearance or family, would you make any changes?* Inferiority/self-rejection is a demonic spirit and a stronghold from Satan and overcoming it is one of the keys to victorious living.

1. *Adonai* prescribed us before birth.

Adonai created man in His image (and likeness) so that man could have fellowship with Him. *Adonai* is a Triune Deity, an *Echad* (One), and so are we. He formed man out of the dust of the ground (body) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (spirit), and man became a living soul (soul – mind, will, and emotions). Before we were born, *Adonai* wrote down (prescribed) all the details of our lives. Scripture refers to man as a *"living soul"* (*1 Peter 3:20*) and man is also referred as *"body and soul"* (*See Isaiah 10:18*). However, in Scripture, *Adonai* describes man as having three distinct parts: *"...may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept complete, blameless..."* (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*). For the purpose of being blameless, we need to understand how these three aspects of our being function and interact with each other.

¹ See <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/evolution-the-self/200809/the-path-unconditional-self-acceptance>

THE SPIRIT

Our spirit is the part that communicates with *Adonai*: "¹⁶*The Ruach Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*" (Romans 8:16). This verse reveals that, by nature, each of us has a spirit and *Adonai's Spirit* unites with our spirit at salvation. "¹¹*For who among men knows the things of a man, except the man's spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the things of God except the Ruach Elohim*" (1 Cor. 2:11).

- The spirit of man is the home of man's faith. *Adonai* gives extra faith before the mind is fully developed; thus, He instructs us to have the faith of a little child in order to enter His Kingdom (See *Mark 10:15*).
- The spirit is genuine love's home. There is a love that surpasses human comprehension. (*Eph. 3:16-19*)
- The spirit is the home of the conscience. *Adonai* has written His Law on our hearts and each person's conscience debates with his mind.
- Other functions of the spirit include creativity, fervency (or enthusiasm: "¹¹*Do not be lagging in zeal; be fervent in spirit. Keep serving the Lord*" (Romans 12:11)), our drives, and wisdom from *Adonai*.

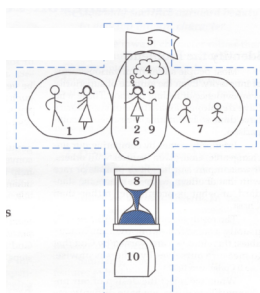
THE SOUL

The soul is composed of the mind, will, and emotions. We must bring these three areas under the control of *Adonai's Spirit* and allow Him to work through our spirit. Otherwise, our souls will be controlled by our fleshly nature, and we will become carnal. "¹⁷*For the flesh sets its desire against the Ruach, but the Ruach sets its desire against the flesh—for these are in opposition to one another, so that you cannot do what you want (i.e., your good intentions)*" (Galatians 5:17). At the time of salvation, the spirit is born again. "...*what is born of the Spirit is spirit*" (John 3:6). The soul is not born again but is to be transformed by the Word of *Adonai*: "...*receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls*" (James 1:21). This was written to those who were already believers. The soul in us is similar to what the Promised Land was to our people Israel. The land was given to our people, but it needed to be conquered. The battleground between *Adonai* and Satan is the human soul. Whatever *ground* we do not regain in the early years of our lives as Believers will be used by the enemy to develop strongholds against us in later years. Thus, it is vital to "*So remember your Creator in the days of your youth: before days of misery come...*" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

THE BODY

Man's body is the intricately formed *container* of his spirit and soul. Its delicately balanced systems are directly affected by what takes place in his spirit and soul. The body also contains the physical senses of taste, touch, sight, sound, and smell. What takes place in the soul and spirit directly affects the body. Therefore, when we are sick, we are to call for the elders of the congregation and clear any *hidden sins* that could be the cause of the sickness. *Adonai* also established other times for us to carefully examine ourselves (His *moadim*). If we fail in this, we may be weak, sickly, or die (See *1 Corinthians 11:28-30*).

2. *Adonai* is not finished with us – we are created with 10 unchangeable features



Adonai's Ten Unchangeable Features are: (1) Parents, (2) Gender, (3) Physical Features, (4) Mental Capacity, (5) Race & Nationality, (6) Birth Order, (7) Brothers and Sisters, (8) Time in History, (9) Aging, (10) Death

Our outward appearance is the "frame" of the "picture" (the frame of the masterpiece) that *Adonai* wants to develop within our hearts. When the picture is finished, the frame will enhance its eternal message. But comparison causes inferiority. "...*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the Day of Messiah Yeshua*" (Phil. 1:6). 🎵 "*He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be. It took Him just a week to make the moon and the stars, the sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars. How wonderfully patient He must be, He's still working on me!*" 🎵

Shabbat Shalom!