



TELL YOUR STORY

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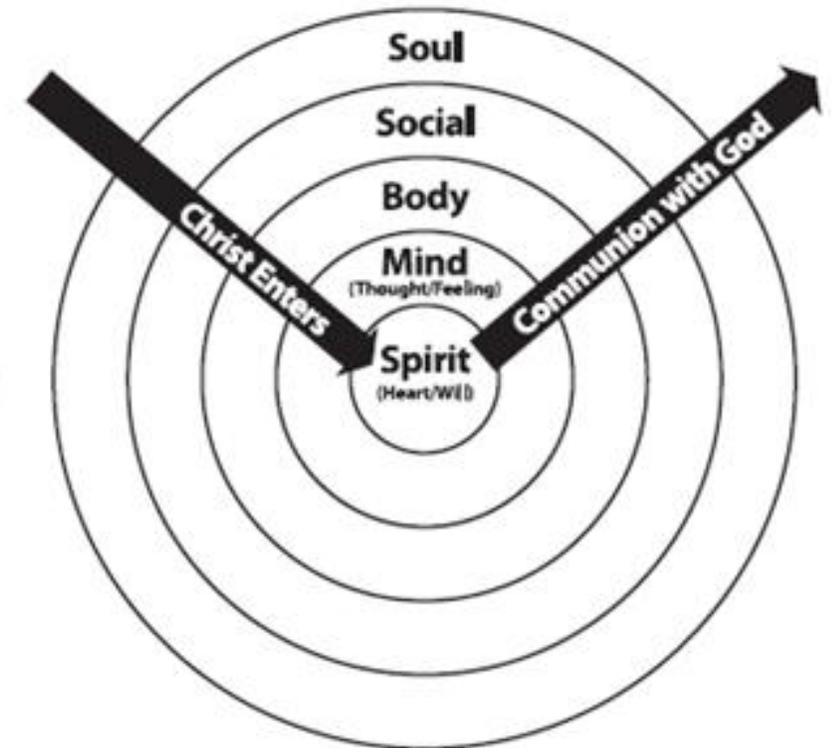
If I asked you to tell me your story, what would you say? God is the author of your life story. God is engaged in an ongoing creative work in your life. You are a story—a well-written, intentional story that is authored by the greatest Writer of all time, and even before time and after time. You are a living story that is meant to reveal and create glory. What makes your life a glorious bestseller is that the plot reveals not a mere moral or lesson but the very person and being of God.

- Dan Allender, PhD in *TO BE TOLD – Know Your Story – Share your Future.*

A RENOVATED SOUL



God in - God out



“.....love others as you love yourself”

A RENOVATED SOUL

“What is running your life at any given moment is your soul. Not external circumstances or your thoughts, or your intentions, or even your feelings, but your soul.” *Dallas Willard*

“This is where our amazing cognitive flexibility comes into play. Thanks to this human skill, as long as we cheat by only a little bit, we can benefit from cheating and still view ourselves as marvelous human beings.” Daniel Ariely

“Your soul is being disintegrated when out of alignment with the Created design.”

Deuteronomy 30:15,16 - See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

A RENOVATED SOUL

Dallas Willard uses three different words to describe your heart. In his words, “I believe it will become clear that **heart**, **spirit**, & **will** (or their equivalents) are words that refer to one and the same thing, the same fundamental component of the person.”

- **Heart** refers to its position in the human being, as the center or core to which every other component of the self owes its proper functioning. *Heart* suggests location and vital function. (Luke 6:45, Matt. 15:18)
- **Will** refers to that component’s power to initiate, to create, to bring about what did not exist before. *Will* represents **the ability to choose** to live inside or outside God’s kingdom.
- **Spirit** refers to its fundamental nature as distinct and independent from physical reality. This term suggests UNBODILY personal power.

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Put the three terms together and you get the full picture. At the center of your being is a spiritual reality that has the power to initiate and create - and communicate via its spiritual reality.

It may be described as your *heart*, *will*, or *spirit*. It is the CEO of your human life and makes decisions each moment of the day that affect your whole person.

The most fundamental choice of your CEO is the same one that originally confronted Adam and Eve: to live in an intimate, conversational, and communal relationship with God, or to initiate and maintain a separate existence - to choose willingness (life with and under submission to God) or willfulness (life apart from God).

For there to be a CEO, there must be a company to run. Every coach needs a team; every chief needs braves; every *heart*, the components of a whole person. Dallas proposes that there are six basic aspects of a human life.

A RENOVATED SOUL

Dallas proposes there are six basic aspects of a human life - these together and in interplay make up 'human nature':

- **Thought** (images, concepts, judgments, inferences)
- **Feeling** (sensations, emotion)
- **Choice** (will, heart, spirit, decision, character, the "CEO")
- **Body** (action, interaction with the physical world)
- **Social context** (personal and structural relations with others)
- **Soul** (the factor that integrates ALL of the above to form one life)

A RENOVATED SOUL

There are only five things that a human being can do:

We can think, feel, choose, behave, and interact with others.

The soul, as distinguished from the CEO/heart, is the invisible computer that keeps everything running and integrated into one person – wholeness.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. How are you at “soul-keeping”?
2. Is my soul functional or dysfunctional?
3. What areas of my life do I need to change to live out God’s created design?