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## **The Triune Man's Battle**

*1 Thes. 5:23*

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Let us look at this verse and the importance of the acknowledgment God reveals through Paul to all of us. We see in verse 1 of 1Thessalonians, he is writing to the church, the saints:

1 Thes. 1:1

Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace and peace to you.

May God Himself -

Deut. 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

the God of peace -

Our God is a God of peace and order, not a God of confusion or unrest.

Judges 6:24

So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord is Peace.

sanctify -

We are set apart, holy, for Him and for us to know and live accordingly

**hagiazō, Greek 37, Strong's**

**hagiazō, hag-ee-ad'-zo**; from Greek 40 (hagios); to *make holy*, i.e. (ceremony) *purify* or *consecrate*; (mentally) to *venerate* :- hallow, be holy, **sanctify**.

Col. 1:22

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you **holy** in his sight, **without blemish** and **free from accusation**--

NOTE: Christ's physical body suffered for our being, which as we study is for our physical body as well, which is part of our triune being.

you through and through -

First this is for you and me, the saints, and by the phrase following, missing not one fiber or part of our being.

May your whole spirit, soul and body -

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Then he defines the **whole** of our being as spirit, soul and body (SSB).

be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. -

Here it is clear that God's concern is for the whole, triune person. He desires us to be kept and cared for by Him while we wait for His return.

As we can see in verse 2, following our focal scripture, it is God who will do it in us, keep us blameless.

1 Thes. 5:24

The one who calls you is faithful and **He will do it.**

How will God do this? He reveals in:

2 Peter 1:3

**His divine power** has given us everything we need for **life and godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us **by his own glory and goodness.**

Philip. 2:13

for **it is God who works in you** to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Now just in a few scriptures we see God declares that we are triune and God through His goodness has given by His divine power the ability to be blameless, and to walk in godliness as well as to provide and keep us in this life.

God created the ONE man to be triune, spirit, soul and body in His image which is triune, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the ONE God.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let **us** make man in our image, in our likeness,...

This shows God is acknowledging His triune being and the making of man in His image.

Then in verse 27 He is ONE God who created man in His image:

Genesis 1:27

So **God created** man **in his own image,**  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

Yet, the Hebrew for God is the plural form for God and this is how God refers to Himself.

**elohiym, Hebrew 430, Strong's**

**'elohiym, el-o-heem'**; **plural** of Hebrew 433 ('elowahh); *gods* in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (**in the plural** thus, especially with the article) of the supreme *God*; occasionally applied by way of deference to *magistrates*; and sometimes as a superlative :- angels, × exceeding, **God (gods)** (-dess, -ly), × (very) great, judges, × mighty.

Genesis 2:7 (KJV)

And the Lord God **formed man of the dust** of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils

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the **breath of life**; and man became a **living soul**.

Here we see God takes a bag of dirt and forms it into the physical form, which is the **body** and then with His Spirit, gives us a life, **spirit**, and we become a living **soul**.

When we return to the New Testament, which is in the Greek, in our focal verse, the spirit, soul and body is identified as the whole person.

Some have said the spirit and soul are one in the same. This is not so, when looked at from the scripture, you will find that the **pneuma** and **psuche** are never interchanged.

**Spirit**: This is the life of our being

#### **pneuma, Greek 4151, Strong's**

**pneuma**, *pyoo'-mah*; from Greek 4154 (pneo); a *current* of air, i.e. *breath* (*blast*) or a *breeze*; by analogy or figurative a *spirit*, i.e. (human) the rational *soul*, (by implication) *vital principle*, mental *disposition*, etc., or (superhuman) an *angel*, *dæmon*, or (divine) *God*, Christ's *spirit*, the Holy *Spirit* :- ghost, life, **spirit** (-ual, -ually), mind. Compare Greek 5590 (psuche).

**Soul**: The soul is primarily our character which is our **mind**, **emotions** and **will**.

#### **psuche, Greek 5590, Strong's**

**psuche**, *psoo-khay'*; from Greek 5594 (psucho); *breath*, i.e. (by implication) *spirit*, abstract or concrete (the *animal* sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from Greek 4151 (pneuma), which is the rational and immortal *soul*; and on the other from Greek 2222 (zoe), which is mere *vitality*, even of plants: these terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew Hebrew 5315 (nephesh), Hebrew 7307 (ruwach) and Hebrew 2416 (chay)) :- heart (+ -ily), life, mind, **soul**, + us, + you.

**Body: The Flesh**, this bag of dirt that has life and character. It is the tent that houses the spirit and soul.

#### **soma, Greek 4983, Strong's**

**soma**, *so'-mah*; from Greek 4982 (sozo); the *body* (as a *sound* whole), used in a very wide application, literal or figurative :- bodily, body, slave.

Because of the limited time, we will only be looking briefly at this most involved subject of spirit, soul and body. Though I have found it to be one of the most important understandings needed when studying scripture, you should study the Word with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your time before the Lord. It is best to always study FIRST this way, without commentaries and other books so you can rightly divide the Word of God without man's tainted view. Another way to look at it, so you can correctly judge what other men have written.

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Jesus said (being He is the Word) in, Whom shall GOD teach knowledge?

Isaiah 28:9-10 (KJV)

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. [10] For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

So when we go to the scripture, we must study precept on precept and line upon line. Then as seen in John, we see the Teacher is the Holy Spirit that has been given to us, who will never leave us and will teach us all things. Notice it is not other men that teach us, but God Himself. Sure there are men who have been taught by the Holy Spirit, but I ask, how do you judge one without the Word of God in your heart and the teaching of the Holy Spirit in you. So FIRST pursue God through His Word with prayer-

John 14:16

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you **forever--**

John 14:26-27

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

The battle that we struggle with comes about only after we have been born again. As said in John 3

John 3:3-6

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

[4] "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

[5] Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water **and the Spirit**. [6] Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit gives birth to spirit**.

This occurs when we know we are sinners condemned and we must turn from our sin (repent) and ask God for forgiveness. Then we confess Jesus as Lord and believe that He was raised from the dead and with decision and confession, we then become born of God. His Spirit gives birth to our new spirit.

2 Cor. 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

This is speaking of the spirit. The old spirit is gone and the new has come and it is the seed of God, and no longer the seed of the first Adam.

Now one that is born again has this new spirit and it is the mind of Christ given us.

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1 Cor. 2:16b

**....But we have the mind of Christ.**

This is of utmost importance to understand. When one is a new creation in Christ, the mind of Christ is in our spirit, our new spirit. But as we all know, there are times when we do foolish things or absolutely lose it and commit such ungodly acts that we doubt and ask - where is the Christ in me? This is when we need to know who we are in Christ and what the Father's love has done for us through His Only Begotten Son, Jesus.

Let us look at this passage where it says we have the mind of Christ.

1 Cor. 2:9-16

However, as it is written:

"No eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
no mind has conceived  
what God has prepared for those who love him"--

[10] but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

**The Spirit searches all things**, even the deep things of God. [11] For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12] We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, **that we may understand what God has freely given us**. [13] This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. [14] **The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned**. [15] The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

[16] "For who has known the mind of the Lord  
that he may instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

So God knew what He created, what happened in the garden when man chose to disobey. Death came and the spirit of man fell and could no longer discern what God wanted nor understand spiritual matters. Then Jesus came and died for us so we can freely receive what God wants us to have. That is eternity with Him and to live godly, holy as we wait for His second coming to fulfill his promise.

So in the meantime, while we remain on the earth we are in battle to become what God desires.... blameless in our whole spirit, soul and body as we await His coming.

How do we do this?

As already said FIRST we must agree with God, repent and be born again.

Once this is done the process begins. In Hebrews we find a most clear explanation of how

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this is done. Since the spirit is now new we must work on the soul and body. That is to get the soul (mind and emotions and will) to agree with the new mind of the spirit, the mind of Christ.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your **bodies** as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Notice that although the free will is not directly addressed, we must willingly submit our mind, to have the potential to bring discipline to the flesh. But if the soul (mind), has not surrendered, the body surely will not. What a dilemma. This is again why the mind (soul) must be subjected to the WORD OF GOD, to start the transformation by renewing the mind.

We also read that although the gift of the spirit which was freely given to us when we believed, was just that - a gift. No work of our own earned it.

Ephes. 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.

Through **faith** (believing what God has said of the unseen) is how we received this gift of the new spirit.

Hebrews 11:1a (KJV)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,...

Hebrews 11:1b (NIV)...and certain of what we do not see.

**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and being certain of what we do not see.**

Then we read this from Romans

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing **by the word of God**.

We find the ear and its function as one of the five senses of the **body**. Yet it is the mind of the soul that is influenced by the hearing of the ear. In light of Rom 10:17, I heard one say that faith is then 'to obey the Word of God.' I can see this, as you hear the word and you believe it, then the action of believing is obedience.

I have come to say it like this - Faith is the NOUN, but to believe is the VERB, or action. Faith without action is just a noun with no life of evidence.

The question is - What are we to believe? IT IS THE WORD OF GOD! Where does faith come from - WORD OF GOD. What must we renew our minds with - THE WORD OF GOD.

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Why the Word of God?

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

So here we continue with line upon line and precept upon precept. Now what did it say in our focal passage. "sanctify them through and through". To be set apart, sanctified, it must be with the truth and the truth is the WORD OF GOD.

As seen in John 1:1,14 Jesus is the Word.

John 1:1, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
[14] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us....

You can see when speaking of the Word and Jesus, they are synonymous or interchangeable.

Rev. 19:13

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and **his name is the Word of God.**

So when we read in John 15 the word must be in us so that Jesus is complete in us.

John 15:7

If you remain in me and **my words remain in you,** ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Where is this completeness needed? It is NOT in the spirit, since we have the mind of Christ there already. But it is in the mind, which is in the soul. Is it starting to make sense? When we read about transformation in Romans 12:2, the process is the taking from the truth, the Word, and putting it into our mind, our soul, so there can be likeness in our soul that agrees with the spirit, the mind of Christ. Without this, the fullness of Christ and His manifestation in us can never be achieved. So without the truth, the Word, you limit the 'knowledge of the Christ' and so limits the divine power given for life and godliness and so you greatly reduce the ability to participate in the divine nature of God on this earth - today!

2 Peter 1:3-4

His divine power has given us everything we need for **life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.** [4] Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

This is why it is written in

1 John 4:17

In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, **because in this world we are like him.**

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How is this so? Because as we read, we have the mind of Christ. And as line upon line reveals, this is in our spirit but we must renew our soul with the knowledge of Christ Jesus, the Word, so that even the soul and body can be like Jesus.

It is choosing to choose life. Our will must make a choice to choose life, which is Jesus. For it is written

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the **way** and the **truth** and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.

As we have seen in the other scriptures, '**the way**' is to believe in Jesus. Then Jesus, the Word, is **the truth**, and when the truth is received and believed there we find '**the life**'.

With this great understanding, we can say that renewing our soul (mind) transforms us to be more like Jesus so as it says in Roman 12: we will not conform any longer to this world but we will be able to know what God's good, pleasing and perfect will is. WOW

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

This is why Jesus said

John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

What did Jesus do? He walked without sin (in holiness) and with divine power. This is one verse I find very few believe. That is really believe for their own walk. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS? You must first believe in your heart and then it takes the WORD and practice, the WORD and practice for the rest of our lives. But if we will TRULY believe in our hearts and not doubt we will do as Jesus did and even greater things. DOING takes action in the faith that what you believe will be. Again practice, practice and practice what the Word says. I will not speak beyond this, but a few things Jesus said DO were - cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, clean the lepers, and this He commanded. DO YOU BELIEVE?

Matthew 10:7-9

As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' [8] Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. [9] Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts;

But the real point of this lesson is not to raise the dead, but hope for this and believe and you will some day. Now here is a verse to ask yourself, can you believe it is possible - for it is a command to us all.

1 Peter 1:16

for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Let me ask - Did Jesus walk Holy? Absolutely!

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Are we like Jesus? Absolutely!  
Do we have divine power? Absolutely!

These are all true, IF YOU BELIEVE.

Just a bit more on this from 1 John.

1 John 3:6

No one who **lives in him** keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

1 John 3:9

No one who is **born of God** will continue to sin, because **God's seed remains** in him; he cannot go on sinning, **because he has been born of God.**

1 John 5:18

We know that **anyone born of God** does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

Now that we can see the power, the divine power given us, those born again, or born of God as said in 1 John we can look at this battle we are in.

I will say again, the spirit is new and now reconciled with God through Jesus Christ. It is the soul and body that is still subject to this world and the temptation of the evil one. But even the evil one cannot harm us if we walk holy before God by His divine power as 1 John 5:18 says.

Now let us look at the passages in Roman 7 & 8. Here in the end of Romans 7 is what most Christians relate to. The primary pronoun is "I". If my count is right 21 times.

Romans 7:14-20

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. [15] I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. [16] And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. [17] As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. [18] I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. [19] For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. [20] Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

But as Paul closes on this problem I have inserted [my words for clarity] as we see it come to the answer Paul proclaims.

Romans 7:21-25

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. [22] For in my inner being **[spirit]** I delight in God's law; [23] but I see another law at work in the members of my **body**, waging war against the law of my mind **[soul]** and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members **[body]**. [24] What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? [25] **Thanks be to God--through**

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## **Jesus Christ our Lord!**

So then, I myself in my mind [**soul**] am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature [**flesh or body**] a slave to the law of sin.

Though the struggle WAS there, it is through the gift from GOD, Jesus Christ our Lord, that we are free.

John 8:31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [32] **Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

John 8:36-37

So if the Son sets you free, **you will be free indeed.** [37] I know you are Abraham's descendants. **Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.**

Their sinful hearts wanted to kill Jesus and they did by not believing His word.

Back to Romans in chapter 8 we will see the "therefore" that Paul expresses by the power of the Holy Spirit in next two verses and why Paul said in 7:25 - Thanks be to God

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [2] **because** through Christ Jesus the law of **the Spirit of life set me free** from the law of sin and death. [3] For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. **And so he condemned sin in sinful man,** [4] in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature [**soul**] but according to the Spirit.

If we live according to the Spirit, the mind of Christ given to each of us that have believed from our hearts, we no longer will sin as we read in 1 John 3:6,9 and 5:18. **This sin is the continuous sin, habitual sin** that comes because we do not have THE WORD OF GOD in our hearts, which was first received in our mind (soul) from reading or hearing God's Word, the Bible. I think the heart is shared by the spirit and soul. This is how Christ's mind and the mind of man can find agreement in God's truth. The heart is the valve that joins the two, spirit and soul. As the heart accepts and believes God's Word it moves from the mind of man (soul) to the valve (the heart) to unite and agree with the mind of Christ in our **new** spirit which is born of God. This could be said another way - believing (in the heart) God is 'faith in God' or 'faith in His Word'.

As John 1:1 says, - the Word was God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Now we can look more into Romans 8 where it speaks about the battle of this triune man as God created us.

Romans 8:5-8

Those who live according to the sinful nature [**body - the flesh**] have their minds [**soul**]

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set on what that nature desires [**body - the flesh**]; but those who live in accordance with the **Spirit** have their minds [**soul**] set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind [**soul**] of sinful man is death, but the mind [**soul**] controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; [7] the sinful mind [**soul controlled by the flesh**] is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

If the soul agrees with the spirit then the body will follow and the flesh, sinful nature is put to death in our obedience to choose THE WORD OF GOD, life.

Now as we approach a conclusion for this study, please realize that we have not covered all that pertains to the SSB. There is much more in the aspect of fully being free. But let us now look at more of chapter 8, taking close notice of the BIG word "IF".

Romans 8:9-11

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature [**body**] but by the **Spirit**, **IF** the Spirit of God lives in you. And IF anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. [10] But **IF** Christ is in you, your **body** is dead because of sin, yet your **spirit** is alive because of righteousness. [11] And **IF** the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

If we are born again we have life for our MORTAL BODIES and the Holy Spirit lives in us. That means life **now** for the **mortal** body. It is not speaking of the immortal body that will come at the resurrection of our perishing body.

1 Cor. 6:19

Do you not know that your **body** is a temple of the **Holy Spirit, who is in you**, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own**;

If we are not our own - what is our obligation?

Romans 8:12-17

**Therefore**, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature [**body - the flesh**], to live according to it. [13] For **IF** you live according to the sinful nature [**body - the flesh**], you will die; but **IF** by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the **body**, you will live, [14] because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive a **spirit** that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of **sonship**. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit himself testifies with our **spirit** that **we are God's children**. [17] Now **IF** we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, **IF** indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

As I attempt to close, I can only pray that this has brought enlightenment to have a better understanding of SSB for the furthering of the Kingdom of God through your life. It is possible for us to walk holy before our God through the knowledge of the Holy One of Israel, Jesus Christ, and by the divine power of the Holy Spirit given each of us.

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We MUST renew our mind aggressively, day in and day out, with the WORD OF GOD, **IF** we are to walk in the victory God has given us. Shall we be scornful and contemptuous of God's Word and not believe? Or shall we be one that perseveres and holds true to what is written in the infallible TRUE WORD of GOD?

We must renew our mind with the WORD OF GOD, and Not the World's ideas and attitudes, for the world is condemned and will be judged in their condemnation. But **IF** you live by the spirit given you, you are a son of God and are in Christ and are NOT condemned.

May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, quicken you to see we have victory now by the power of the Holy Spirit and the blood that Jesus shed and the death he suffered only to be raised to life to show what we believe is true.

Remember this from John 14

John 14:26

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things **and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

What have you LET Jesus say to you, so He can remind you in that time of need and temptation.

DO YOU BELIEVE?

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