

1 Soul and Spirit

Topical Studies

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2 Soul and Spirit

1. The First Mention of soul in the text of the KJB is Genesis 2:7:

- Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

2. The FM of life is in Genesis 1:20 and the Hebrew word is given in the margin as soul:

- Genesis 1:20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl *that* may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. Margin: Heb. *soul*.
- Genesis 1:30 "And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so." Margin: Heb. *a living soul*.

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3. Example verses in the O.T. where soul and spirit appear in the same verse:

- Leviticus 20:6 "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."
- 1 Samuel 1:15 "And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD."
- Job 7:11 "Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul."
- Isaiah 26:9 "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments *are* in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."

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4. Example verses in the N.T. where soul and spirit appear in the same verse:

- 1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

5 Soul and Spirit –Drill down

5. The soul and the spirit are the two primary immaterial parts ascribed to humanity in Scripture. The word *spirit* refers only to the immaterial facet of humanity.

6. Human beings *have* a spirit, but we are *not* spirits. However, in Scripture, only believers are said to be spiritually alive:

- 1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."
- James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

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7. Unbelievers are spiritually dead:

- "1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"Ephesians 2:1-5
- Colossians 2:13 "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"

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8. The spirit is the element in humanity that gives us the ability to have an intimate relationship with God. The word *spirit* refers to the immaterial part of humanity that "connects" with God, who Himself is spirit:

- John 4:24 "God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."

9. The soul and the spirit are connected, but separable:

- Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

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10. The word *soul* can refer to both the immaterial and material aspects of humanity.

Humans *have* a spirit but *are* souls. In its most basic sense, the word *soul* means "life" [see previous verses in Genesis 1:20, 30, 2:7] ; beyond this essential meaning, the Bible speaks of the soul in many contexts. One of these is in relation to humanity's basic selfishness:

- Luke 12:19 "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry."

11. Human beings have a sinful nature, and our souls are tainted with sin. The soul, as the life essence of the body, is removed at the time of physical death:

- Genesis 35:18 "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin."

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12. The soul, as with the spirit, is the center of many spiritual and emotional experiences:

- Job 30:25 "Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was *not* my soul grieved for the poor?"
- Psalm 43:5 "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God."
- Jeremiah 13:17 "But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for *your* pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive."

13. The word *soul* can refer to the whole person, whether alive on earth or in the afterlife:

- Acts 27:37 "And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls."
- Revelation 6:9 "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:"