

# “BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT”

(I Thess. 5:23)

**Man is a triune being:** Body, Soul, and Spirit, I Thess. 5:23. It is easy to make a distinction between the Body and the Soul, but becomes rather difficult to make the distinction between the Soul and Spirit. Those who are students of the Bible recognize there is a difference in this area, yet sometimes find it rather difficult to explain the difference. Let us start with that which we know and then progress to that which is considered the more difficult.

**BODY:** The body was formed out of the “*dust of the ground,*” Gen. 2:7. Solomon said in Ecc. 12:7, “*and the dust returneth to the earth as it was,*” This body is the same kind of body that was prepared for the Lord, Heb. 10:5, “*A body didst thou prepare for me.*” This body is referred to as an “*earthly house of our tabernacle,*” II Cor. 5:1. The soul is in this body till death and then the body returns to dust and the soul goes to hades, Acts 2:27; Lk. 16:19-31. In the resurrection this earthly body will become a heavenly body, I Cor. 15:48. The body will be raised and there will be a change from that which is corruption, I Cor. 15:42, to incorruption. At this point we will be housed in a “*spiritual*” body that is “*eternal,*” I Cor. 15:46-49. This body will be like the state of heaven – eternal! In II Cor. 4:16 the “*outward man and the inward man stand for the body and the soul.*”

**SOUL OF MAN:** This is the internal part of man. Once the Soul comes into existence **it is eternal** and will always be in existence. This is the meaning in Matt. 16:26, “*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his **soul**?*” (KJV) Another passage speaking of the soul is found in Matt. 10:28, “*And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*” This passage is speaking of the soul of man as being eternal – it cannot be killed! The body can be killed, it is **earthly**, and the soul cannot be killed, it is **eternal**. After the body is resurrected and is changed, it will also be eternal and neither the body nor the soul will cease to exist! The state of punishment and the state of heaven are “**Eternal,**” Matt. 25:46: “*And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life.*” The soul is the part of man that was made “*in the image and likeness of God,*” Gen. 1:26. When then we argue the eternal existence, we are discussing the soul of man. It is interesting that the “*inward*” part of man, is the discussion with Nicodemus, Jno. 3:1-13.

**SPIRIT OF MAN:** The word “**spirit**” is used in different senses in the New Testament: (1) It is used in the sense of the “*Baptism of the Holy Spirit,*” Acts 2:4; (2) It is used to have reference to “*an attitude and disposition of heart,*” Jno. 4:24; (3) It is used with reference to the Law of Christ, Rom. 8:2, 9. In verse 9 it is used of the Law of the Spirit in verse 2; (4) It is used with reference to the Holy Spirit, himself, Jno. 16:13, the “*Spirit of truth*” is the Holy Spirit that delivered truth; (5) The word spirit is used to refer to the spirit of man, Jas. 2:26. Noting the different uses of the word spirit will cause one to recognize – the context of the word must be considered to understand its meaning. The above list is not exhaustive

My thought at present is: “*What is the spirit?*” Remember we are discussing: Body, Soul, and Spirit! Possibly a good place to start is Jas. 2:26: “*For as the **body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.***” Another passage that shows a distinction between the soul and spirit is Heb. 4:12: “*For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper*

*than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* If one is to take a body and a soul and there not be the spirit, then there is no life! **The body and soul without the spirit is dead.** Possibly this is the explanation of Lk. 8:40-42, 49-56. When Jesus raised Jairus’s daughter from the dead it is stated, **“her spirit returned,”** v. 55. *Remember she was dead, Lk. 8:51, the body was still with them and the soul had departed, Lk. 16:22, there was a separation of the body and the soul. But when the Lord Jesus caused the spirit to enter again, now there is life again, right?* It is said concerning Jesus, *“Jesus cried with a loud voice and gave up his spirit,”* Matt. 27:50. We know the body was on the cross, the soul went to hades, Acts 2:27. So, the spirit seems to be that part of man that is the life between the body and the soul. According to Ecc. 12:7 **that life giving spirit returns to God that gave it!** Caa .....