

Body, Soul and Spirit

We know a lot about our **body** living in it every day; as we get older, we feel its decline. Eventually our body fails and is either cremated or buried. Is this the end of everything? Believing that may offer temporary comfort but won't change what comes next.

Soul and spirit are words often used interchangeably but each has special significance. Our **soul** can be described as the moral part of us and is often used for "the person", as in the SOS distress signal (Save our Souls). The **soul** is the seat of our affections and desires. The **spirit** is the higher part of man, expressing individuality, and distinguishing us from the animal kingdom. **Soul and spirit** live on after our death. God formed Adam and only when God breathed into him the breath of life, did he become a living soul (Genesis 2:7); no such expression is said of the animal kingdom. God made only mankind in His own image.

Adam and Eve enjoyed a personal relationship with God until spoiled when they disobeyed a direct instruction from God. This set in motion a chain of events leading to the introduction of death for the body. But God is long-suffering and has given us liberty to decide things. People gazing at the skies at night or at the wonders of creation are stirred to a certain consciousness of God. A soldier once said that in a foxhole under bombardment, there are no atheists. When all else seems to fail, folks are inclined to give a thought to God, and even pray to Him. If we shut God out of our lives, we will find there is a void inside that no amount of pleasure or possessions can fill and satisfy.

Eternity where? The question is: where do **soul and spirit** actually go? Only One came back to tell us: the Son of God—Jesus Christ. Born 2,000 years ago, He alone perfectly carried out God's will. His death on a cross was not the end of Him; He rose from the dead and told us about things that must shortly come to pass. Many have testified to the undeniable proofs of these things.

The fleeting concerns of daily life and of our natural bodies claim most of our energy. Life is short compared to Eternity; God says it is possible to possess eternal life! But it is imperative to prepare for it. God has divided Eternity in two – heaven and hell. Both are more real than anything we see around us. To prepare for "what comes next", act now; nothing is more important. Your natural life will speed on to its natural conclusion; a date unpredictable. Heaven is reserved for those who listen to Him and believe what he says about them and about His Son. Hell is a place God has prepared for the everlasting punishment of Satan and his fallen angels and unredeemed sinners.

Romans 3:23 says, *All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* Many people hope that all will be well after they die, but how much better to know it will. This "sure and certain hope" cannot be obtained by your own efforts. It requires believing God exists, has supreme power over everything, and that the Bible is truly God's inspired Word to you. Consider then the following:

1. God has done all that was necessary, out of love for your soul. There is nothing left for you to do but believe. John 3:16, *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ and His ascension back to heaven is the assurance of God's acceptance of all He accomplished. The apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:12, *I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.*
3. The offer of eternal life through the shed blood of Christ stands, but for how long we do not know. Accept this free gift while it is still available to your faith. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, *Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.* Tomorrow might be too late!

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