

WE ARE SPIRIT -- IN A BODY

Many people admit we are spiritual beings, but that can be interpreted many different ways. This study will take a closer look at this subject along with the question of where Jesus came from.

We will start in the book of 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.

We need to listen to the words: Man was formed. Man was from the ground. Man received life from the breath that God breathed into Adam, who is called "man", and he became a "living soul". He was only body of flesh until God breathed a spirit into him.

This man did not "have" a soul, he became one. However, the word "soul" has been used interchangeably by writers. Adam became a soul when God formed a body of flesh and put a spirit in it. The soul is only a completed soul if it has a spirit. Adam was both body and spirit which became a soul.

Man is somewhat like a vehicle. Without air, fuel and water it will not perform no matter how perfect the body is: neither can man; he must have breath, blood, and water. Man's body can not live without even one of these supports. Likewise, the spirit of man cannot have eternal life without connecting to God's spirit.

A body responds to the way it is cared for. The spirit in man controls how it is cared for. If it is abused, or grows old, it will only do what it is capable of doing for a short time and gradually die. But the spirit in man never dies; it goes into a deep sleep and returns to God. It cannot stay awake without a body. God can take man's breath back just as easily as He gives it. When God takes our spirit (breath) back the body can no longer function.

So what is a soul? Part of him is a body. The body has five senses: 1. Sight, 2. Hearing, 3. Feeling, 4. Taste, & 5. Smell. These are all connected with the body; it can live without one or more of them. If the body dies the spirit in man is no longer active, it can no longer communicate or function. The body is a vehicle which can only last for a certain amount of years, but it requires constant care. The spirit is what is referred to as the heart and/or soul. When God created Adam and Eve he referred to them as souls. In other words they were a complete human, flesh and spirit. They were able to choose. Their spirits chose to disobey God and it got them, and us, in trouble. The Bible says the spirit in the human being cannot understand the things of God. 1 Cor. 2:11, 14

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.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The "natural" man is one without having connected to God's spirit.

God gives the body a spirit, but it needs God's spirit to live eternally.

The Bible refers to carnal spirit as breath and/or wind. We, as spirit can plan, reason, choose, travel and experience and grow in knowledge and wisdom. We call it "the mind".

Our body is carnal and naturally rebels against the spirit of God. The reason is because our flesh wants to feel, see, taste, hear, and smell whatever makes it feel good. The spirit in man

has to decide what is the best thing to do, not because it pleases the flesh, but because it is the right thing to do, and pleases God.

Gal. 5:17,19-20. The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

When God created Adam and Eve he gave them the choice to live eternally, as a soul they would never die, physically or spiritually. If they obeyed their maker they would be choosing and granted life. If they disobeyed they would be choosing eternal death. When they chose death they also chose death for their offspring, putting every human being under the death penalty. God's laws were not inflicted on man just because He was an overly harsh and strict being, but because He created man so that if he lived a certain life style he would be healthy, and happy forever. However, God knew if one chose to rebel his life would forever result in unhappiness and misery, not only for himself but for many others.

God being the merciful and loving being that He is explained to his created beings that sin was so serious it was deadly. When sin was committed it required the death of a perfect sinless creature to pay the penalty. If they would sacrifice a sinless animal the way He instructed He would accept its blood to cover their sin temporally. Adam's son, Cain, shows us how important it was to sacrifice just as God had instructed. Blood had to be shed. This was God's plan to vindicate man's death penalty.

Cain disrespected God's authority by choosing to do it his way. We read about that in Gen. 4:1-12.

The spirit in man is given for the purpose of making decisions, to reason, feel emotions, to plan and also to control and care for the body. God made it so that the spirit in man could connect to Go and become one spirit. 1Cor. 2:11, 6:17-20.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

God owns both our bodies and our spirit because He created it. He owns all things.

After they disobeyed, God told Adam and Eve that now they no longer had the option to live forever. Adam and Eve's spirit would eventually die without any hope of ever living again, but he allowed Adam to live a physical life for nine hundred and thirty years, during which time he and Eve had numerous children Gen. 5:1-32. However, Adam, and all of his large family, were under the curse of death as their penalty, meaning when they died they would stay dead for all eternity.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 1 Thessalonian 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.

Before we go too far we need to find out what kind of definition the Bible gives for the words used for Soul. There's a definition for the word used in Strong's Conc. in the Old Testament #5315 and one used in the New Testament #5590. They both have about the same meaning. Number 5319 is Nephesh and means: To breathe, a breathing creature (bodily or mental). It is desire, ghost, heart, lust, and mind. All of these apply and can be translated "soul" or "spirit". The #5590 is used in the New Testament pronounced, in the original Greek, "Psuche", which also means "spirit", but has been translated "soul" into the English. All the places where the word is translated "soul" but could also be translated "spirit" in the New Testament are listed below:

Mr. 8:36,37 12:30,33 and 14:34
Lu. 1:46 2:35, 10:27 12:19
Jo. 12:27 Acts. 2:27,31,43 3:28 4:32
Rom. 3:9 13:1 1Cor. 15:45 2Cor 1:23
1Tim. 5:28 Heb. 4:12 6:19 10:38,39
Jas/ 5"20 1Pet/ 2:11 2Pet.2:8 3Jo. V 2
Rev.16:3 18:14

There are also a list of the words in the original Hebrew, pronounced "souls" that mean "spirits" in Strong's Conc. Such as #5825, 7307, 9416 which means "life, mind, and soul". #4145 pronounced, "Penuma" means "spirit, rational soul, and mental disposition."

God gave mankind enough time to grow and make right choices, but they rebelled and refused God's way. Gen. 6:5-7 God destroyed all of the people on earth except one family Gen 6:8.

God, in His mercy, had a plan to vindicate Man's sins and free them from the curse of death. But first He needed to educate them so they would better understand what was required. When the time came He selected a man who would set the example for obedience and teach his own children to do the same. For Abram's obedience God promised him and his offspring great prosperity. When these promises were fulfilled the whole world, both dead and alive, would prosper with the option of being reconciled to God. Abram's huge family of twelve sons was eventually named "Israel". Gen.12:1-3, 17:4-5, 15-16. Many years later, the family found themselves in the country of Egypt as slaves. Once again God selected the man, Moses, from a descendant of Levi, one of the twelve sons of Abraham, to deliver His laws.

This began the second age, the age of law. This also was God's way of introducing himself to Israel. He taught them about sacrifices, covenants, priesthood, special commandments, circumcision, and a host of other rules for clean, healthy living starting in Exodus chapter twenty to the end of the book.

A lot of Biblical history follows where we read how God worked with the nation of Israel, (descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob, or Israel) and her leaders. During this age Israel became educated by Godly men and thrived when they obeyed, but suffered many lost lives in wars, and fell to hard times when they rebelled.

Many years later, Israel's hypocritical spiritual leaders had so burdened and abused them that they had lost their knowledge of God's love. They were harassed and controlled by enemy governments.

This was the time God took the next step in his plan. This would be the third age, the age of grace. He would be born as a human so He could personally communicate with His beloved

Israel. He selected a young Israelite virgin woman, named Mary, to receive His holy spirit, an extension of himself, within her body and waited for her natural process to grow flesh and bone about it.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

This holy thing that would be produced would be called Emmanuel, which meant "God with us". Mt: 1:20 20 , the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:,,,

The "holy thing" would be called "the son of God" and would go by the name of "Jeshua" (Jesus).

When Jesus reached manhood He proceeded to call special men to be his disciples and apostles that would eventually carry His word to the whole world. They would be helped when their spirits became part of Himself, but in the meantime it was difficult to reach them. They accepted that He was from God, but He said things that confused them.

At one point Jesus tried to make it clear to his apostles who he really was. Jn. 14:7-10.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

This was very confusing to the disciples because they were carnal and until they received God's spirit they could not understand spiritual things. They didn't understand what God was doing through this body that looked just like any ordinary man, nor could they understand that nothing is impossible to God, and that He was developing His firstborn son.

The body was in the form of a human being but the spirit within was God. Jesus did "have" a "spirit in man" but it was sinless because it was devoted to, and controlled by God's spirit. The spirit of man within him had the same attitude, the same goals, the same power, and the same love as the Father. He plainly told them he and his father were one and the same. Jesus, the spirit in man, knew who he was and what his mission was. Because God had foreordained this plan and prophesied that it would be fulfilled, (God cannot lie), Jesus would never sin. He would endure the sacrifice as a son.

Just as the Father, Jesus had emotions; he hated sin with a passion, and loved righteousness. He even loved his enemies. When he grew to manhood he was tested by evil spirits and proved not to be enticed even by the powerful and most evil spirit of them all, Satan. After all, he had the very mind of God. But Satan didn't know that.

Jesus was the powerful extension of God who had served as "the word" in the mind of God for all eternity. He knew, as spirit, he couldn't die but this sinless body could and would die and shed it's blood to cover the sins of mankind. Since Jesus was the extension of the Father, he kept in close fellowship with the full power that he referred to as "The Father" for the benefit of man. Since he actually was descended through Mary for his body, even though he had no DNA of a man, he also referred to himself often as "the son of man".

The time came, at the end of his ministry, after he had communicated his word to his believers, that he would be crucified. His body rebelled against the shame and pain, but his spirit was eager to get it over with. He had been begotten as a son, but shortly he would be resurrected and appear as the first born (son of God) of many brethren (sons of God).

After he was crucified and resurrected he appeared to his disciples in a different body (Mary didn't know Him at the tomb) and taught them for forty days before he returned to heaven. God had appeared to man in the form of a man, suffered and died as a man, so that any who would accept his son, and his word, would be free of the curse of death. God had begun his family. Jesus was his first born.

This plan was offered to every person (past, present, and future) who would accept it. Just as God was a spirit in a body of flesh, we also are spirits in our bodies of flesh. The difference, of course, is that we are carnal until we, as spirits, are joined by God's spirit. The more we submit the more we spirits become like Him. He set the example of how He begot a son through the process of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, making it possible to do the same for us. Our bodies of flesh will die, but by the power of the holy spirit within us, we will be born again as members of the God family. That is what Jesus meant when he said he had the power to raise himself from death.

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus said he had power over all our bodies, and can give as many as has been appointed eternal life.

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

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