

## Life after Death-the Soul of Man

***“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.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23 KJV)***

According to *1 Thessalonians 5:23* humans is composed of three parts:

1. Body, that contain all the senses (sight, smell, touch sensation, hearing), the organs (heart, lungs, kidney, stomach, etc.) and the different parts of the body (head, neck, limbs, abdomen and chest) These all will make the body to function and to maintain its wellbeing and its services.

2. Soul, that is responsible for thinking, abstraction, conclusion, emotions and feelings. The Greek word used for ‘soul’ here is ‘Psuche’ and it has the following meaning: The breath of life, men life, a living being, a living soul, the soul: the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions (our heart, soul etc.). The (human) soul in so far as it is constituted that by the right use of the aids offered it by God it can attain its highest end and secure eternal blessedness, *the soul regarded as a moral being designed for everlasting life.* The soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death (distinguished from other parts of the body).

In the Old Testament, the soul of man also is mentioned, ***“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.” (Genesis 2:7)*** The Hebrews word for ‘soul’ is ‘nephesh’ and is repeated also in other places in the Old Testament Scriptures as in the following examples:

***“And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.” (Genesis 35:18 KJV)*** The soul of Rachel departed while she passed into death during her delivery of her second son Benjamin. It is clear here that the soul will depart from the body at the time of death.

***“21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.” (1 Kings 17:21-22)*** Here we can see clearly that Elijah prayed to God for the the soul of the child to come back to him. The Lord listen to the prayer of Elijah and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

‘Psuche’, the Greek word for soul in the New Testament is repeated in other places in the New Testament as in the following examples:

***“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” (Matthew 6:25 KJV)*** Here the word life used for soul.

***“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.” (Matthew 10:28 KJV)*** Here clearly says that if a soul of man would live in sin and promote the body to do sinful things then God will destroy that soul in hell. ***“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” (Ezekiel 18:20 KJV)*** The soul that sins shall die. But when the man repent his soul shall be saved from the ***“Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.” (Ezekiel 18:27 KJV)***

God had authority to bring the soul of man to hell, and has the authority to bring it out of hell, ***“27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.” (Acts 2:27, 31 KJV)*** ***“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” (Psalm 16:10 KJV)***

***“25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 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?” (Matthew 16:25-26 KJV)*** Here it speaks clearly that the soul of man can be lost if man decide to leave God in order to gain the world and the material things of the world.

The Lord certain times rebuke us to make us give up our wrong decisions and wrong paths and bad steps that we pass through. Jesus gave the parable of the rich fool in response to a request from the rich man who came to him to divide inheritance with his brother. Let us read what the rich fool said and what was the answer of God to him: ***“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. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Luke 12:19-20 KJV)*** The soul of man will be required by God; eternally the soul of man will live, either in heaven or in hell and eternal fire according to the conduct man.

***“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26 KJV)*** God wants to come to Him fully, loving him more than our soul and our inclinations or desires. The word life in this statement ***“and his own life also”***, is soul. So God wants us to love him more than loving our soul.

The Lord wants us to love him with all our soul, ***“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” (Matthew 22:37 KJV)*** Our feelings, emotions, thoughts and inclination should go all along with God. Let us remember today that we are living for eternity, therefore let us do eternal things. At the time of revival during the reign of King Asa, the people sought the Lord with all their soul, ***“And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul.” (2 Chronicles 15:12 KJV)***

The soul is the center that is attacked by Satan and by the world. The soul is the first to be burdened with the attacks of the enemies. ***“Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.” (Matthew 26:38 KJV)*** Jesus in the night He was betrayed His soul was greatly burdened with sorrow. The same with us today, when we are committing ourselves with the plan of God and persevering with what wants us to achieve, then we found our soul is burdened with sorrow, because we are opposed by Satan and by our flesh.

When we are troubled with sorrow and when it is beyond of what we can bear then we can call upon God and ask Him to deliver us and to help us in our troubles, ***“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.” (John 12:27 KJV)*** Jesus cried to God while He was passing through the cross, and God helped Him and made it possible for Him to pass through the painful cross. In the same way for us, we can help our souls that are burdened, heavy, and in pain to pray and intercede to God who will hear our cry to Him and He will help us to pass through the painful trial.

Also the soul should be the center to magnify God and to praise Him for all the favor and the grace that God is giving to us in saving us, sustaining us, supporting us and delivering us from all our enemies. ***“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord.” (Luke 1:46 KJV)*** God would give us good things and bless us with miracles, healing, wisdom, solution for problems, deliverance, answering our prayers, comforting us, directing us with His light and healing our wounds. In addition to that God would allow our souls to pass through painful experiences with tragic and painful experiences. The same Mary who magnified the Lord for the fruit of her womb, when she was pregnant with Jesus, she also accepted the prophecy that was told to her that she will experience sword passing her soul, ***“Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:35 KJV)*** That took place when she witnessed Jesus crucified as she stood by the cross, ***“25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.” (John 19:25 KJV)*** The Lord comforted His mother, he spoke to her and he asked one of His apostles to take care of her. ***“26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!” 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.” (John 19:26-27 KJV)*** The disciple of Jesus took her to his house, and took care of her. Not that she was not having house or home, but she was in need to someone to explain to her what had been taken place. She was in need to be comforted and counseled and for her wounds to be healed. Certain painful trials that we need to pass through, there is God's purpose behind it, and we need to take heed of what is the purpose of God and why He is allowing us to pass in such situation. God also will provide us the atmosphere and the places that He had prepared for us to recover and get restored. Good to notice that Mary she accepted the instruction that Jesus gave, that she will be cared by Apostle John, a man at the age most likely younger than she, and she was asked to move to other house. Mary humbled herself and accepted to pass through that stage of counseling and care, fully aware that God, through Jesus was catering to her needs. Both, Mary and the disciple, understood what Jesus asked of them to interact with one another to bring the good fruit

that God want to see in the life of His church. We as church, as workers and in Christ's service, we should be sensitive to what Jesus is speaking to us and what He is directing us to do and to move to, so people will be healed, workers will be restored and ministries would be established.

Indeed, Mary did well, and we can read in the book of Acts that she was with her children among the apostle, and they were part of the prayer meeting, ***“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.” (Acts 1:14 KJV)*** Mary continued with the apostle, she was in one accord with them moving with the plan of God and with the will of God. Witnessing and taking part of what is going on in the life of the church. Even to the day of Pentecost, ***“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.” (Acts 2:1 KJV)*** And they got filled with the Holy Spirit. Mary as she humbled herself and followed the plan that Jesus instructed to take place and she accepted to go and live in the house of John the Apostle, there was good things happened in her life. She was healed, her other children followed her good example, and they become part of the church, they united with the body of Christ, they were part of the prayer meetings, they were witnessing the events and what God was doing in His church and finally they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The soul of man is an important part and needs to be maintained and preserved in the time of trials because the soul is the part of man that will make the decision to follow God. So in trials devil also will pull that soul away from God by adding more pressure on it. Therefore, we need to help those who are passing through hard time, by understanding them and help them to bear the pressure that they are brought under till they are making it out of their trials.

In trials our hope is in Jesus and on His promises to us, ***“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.” (Hebrews 6:19)*** As we read God's Word and meditate on we will be assured about what God is doing in our lives and the trials that we are in will lead us to our salvation: ***“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:9 KJV)***

Even on the non believers as the Word of God is preached the souls will be converted, ***“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.” (Psalm 19:7 KJV)*** ***“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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 KJV)*** As the Word of God preached the fear of God will be imparted to the soul of man, ***“And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.” (Acts 2:43 KJV)*** Those souls who do not respond to God's Word and listen to instructions they will be destroyed, ***“And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.” (Acts 3:23 KJV)*** But the Word of God will encourage the souls of those who believe, and their souls will be strengthened, and the Word of God will give them confirmation of what they are passing through and on what they are suffering from in their way to enter the Kingdom of God. ***“Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22 KJV)***

***My dear and beloved:*** David said, ***“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” (Psalm 23:3 KJV)*** Today as we understand the message to us. Let us come to God in repentance seeking Him with all our strength, with our hearts and with all our souls. ***“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:30 KJV)*** Let us call on God and ask Him to save us from all trials and tribulations. Let us ask Him to restore our souls and heal our hearts. Let us put our full trust on Him, trusting in His Noly Name, His Word and His promises.

***My prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that makes things clear to me and made me understand your Word and your ways. Lord I commit myself into your hand. Lord I repent from my sins \_\_\_\_\_.* *Lord I commit myself into your hand. Lord comfort me and restore my soul. Lord helps me to go through this trial that I am passing through \_\_\_\_\_.* *Lord gives me patience and perseverance so I can stand firm to the end. Lord protects me and provides my needs.*

*Lord speaks to me, I am willing to serve you and do care for others who are in need for my hands and care. Lord speaks to me of what I need to do with them so they will be healed and restored to serve you. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*