

Title: **BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT**

Text: **I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12**

Intro: Man has 3 layers in his composition (**Gen. 1:26-27**). He has a **BODY**, a **SOUL**, and a **SPIRIT**. We shall see that these three are distinct and separate. Much like our Trinitarian God, the Father is typified by our soul; the Son is typified by our body; and the Holy Spirit is typified by our spirit. **Illust.** – Man is just like a basketball and also the Tabernacle in composition. Each of these two things have three components in them.

I. THE BODY is the **flesh, blood, and bones** which gives man "**world-consciousness**" (**Gen. 3:19**).

- A.** The body of man has 5 senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. The 6th sense is not always common!
- B.** Dust has been analyzed to have at least 96 elements which are also found in man. Amazing proof of creation!
- C.** After Adam sinned, the body became a dying body and was appointed unto death (**Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27**).

II. THE SOUL is a **different "body" shaped like the flesh** which gives man "**self-consciousness**."

- A.** The soul is above the body of man but beneath his spirit. It stands for the personal, individual life.
- B.** The soul is midway between the human body and spirit but it is NOT a mixture of the two.
- C.** The Bible speaks of a human soul as being weary & sorrowful soul (**Jer. 31:25**), thirsty soul (**Psa. 42:2**), grieved soul (**Job 30:25**), loving soul (**Song 1:7**).
- D.** It is for the SOUL of man that Christ died for to redeem him from hell (**Jas. 1:21; Psa. 49:8** cf. **Isa. 53:10**).
- E.** The soul joins two worlds, the physical and spiritual. When a man is saved, his soul keeps the body (lowest) in subjection to the spirit (highest) (**I Cor. 9:27**).

III. THE SPIRIT is **like the wind** and gives man "**God-consciousness**." (**Ezek. 37:5, 14**)

- A.** The human spirit is the breath of life which God breathed from himself (**Gen. 2:7; Job 33:4**).

- B. God is a Spirit (**John 4:24**) and the spirit of man is that part that closely resemble God himself. That is why the worship of God is a spiritual matter and never fleshly.
- C. The spirit of man enables direct communication with God. The Holy Spirit gives us assurance of salvation through our human spirits (**Rom. 8:16**).
- D. An unsaved man has a dead spirit and needs to be born of the Spirit of life in his spirit (**Eph. 2:1; John 3:5-8**).
- E. Every man has a spirit in him (**I Cor. 2:11**). There are 4 spirits= spirit of man, spirit of the beast (**Eccl. 3:21**), the spirit of God, and spirit of the devil (unclean spirit).

IV. What Happens To Man At Death? (Job 14:10)

- A. The **BODY** corrupts and returns to dust (**Gen. 3:19**). It SLEEPS till resurrection (**John 11:11-13; Dan. 12:2**).
- B. The **SPIRIT** leaves the body (**Jas. 2:26**) and returns in heaven to God who gave it (**Eccl. 3:21; 12:7**).
- C. The **SOUL** also leaves the body and is ever alive and either goes to Heaven or Hell immediately after death (**Gen. 35:18; Mark 8:36; Luke 12:20; 16:19-23**).
- D. At death an unsaved man's spirit, soul and body go to 3 different places proving that he is a tripartite being.

V. THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS IS THE MOST PERFECT ILLUSTRATION OF WHERE A PERSON GOES AT DEATH. Notice –

- A. Christ's **BODY** (**John 19:38-42**).
- B. Christ's **SPIRIT** (**Luke 23:46**).
- C. Christ's **SOUL** (**Matt. 12:40; Acts 2:27, 31**)

Conclusion: Praise God that we have eternal assurance of salvation for our souls and that our loved ones who have died or slept in the Lord are now **"absent from the body and... present with the Lord"** (**II Cor 5:6-8**). That is why we can say with the Apostle Paul, **"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"** (**Phil. 1:21**). Do you have 100% assurance of salvation? Friend, if you were to die tonight, do you know for sure that your soul is saved from the punishment of hell?