

SPIRIT AND SOUL

Spirit: The Oxford Dictionary says that “ Sprit is the vital animating essence of a person, -the intelligent-non-physical part of a person; the soul.” It’s the breath of life, or force holding onto life.

It is the emotions, intellect, conscience, and reasoning. Our character that makes us what we are. It shapes you and makes you what you are.

Soul: is “the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being, often regarded as immortal.”

BIBLE REFERENCES

Two shades of meaning for soul. The Hebrew suggests that it is our vitality, our animation, our appetites or desire for things. It is the thing that drives on. It’s our well being,

Soul is not material idea. It is not a human organ but it is that which responds to God. It is the spiritual part of us. It is not a part that is mortal but it is the spiritual part that lives on. The Hebrew sees no difference.

You cannot separate the spirit and soul and body so easily in Hebrew.

Christ rose from dead with an imperishable body.

What was Christ’ risen body like?

John 20:19,26 Jesus appeared to the disciples while the doors were locked. They recognised his body and he talks to them.

Then in **John 21** he appears by the sea of Tiberius and tells them where to get a good catch of fish. He cooks fish for them by the sea and eats with them.

Luke 24:36-43 Jesus has risen from the dead and talks to the frightened disciples saying “Look at my hands and my feet, touch me and see, a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. Later they gave him a bit of broiled fish and he ate it”

1 Cor 15; 42 “The body that is sown in death, is perishable, it is raised imperishable”. So it is life in a kind of transformed bodily form.

The Greeks thought that the Soul was imprisoned in a body, when the body dies then the spirit could become free and live on, in itself. But that is a kind of dual feeling, which is not necessarily correct.

The perishable puts on the imperishable. Man lives on in immortality.

Luke 16:-19-31 The rich man could see Abraham in heaven but could not get there.

1 Peter 1:23 “ For we have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

Meanings change and fluctuate there is a danger of over simplification.

Interpret each verse in the light of each verse and of its context. Sometimes the terms are interchangeable and sometimes not.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE LAST DAY?

Heb 9:27 “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement”

We will face Judgement.

What do Muslims believe? What did you believe before you came to Christ?

**In Islam there is no certainty of the outcome. If God wills, he wills. (Muslims say Inshallah).

According to Islam God is-all powerful (Omnipotent) meaning that he can do whatever he wills.

But his power he can overrule everything, even if this does not agree with his character or uniqueness. In Islam, God is not absolutely unchangeably just. He can change the ground rules. His law is not shown in his moral nature but in his free will. If God wants to forgive you he can and if he doesn’t want to forgive he won’t even if it seems the right thing to do because of His good nature!

In Islam you don’t know for certain how God will react.

The Bible teaches that God cannot act differently to his nature **Numbers 14:11-24**. His abilities and character cannot go against each other. God is the one who is pure goodness and will not do anything against his good nature. He would never change his mind and do something that seems wrong. He always forgives us when we believe in Jesus. **Psalm 103:8-12** God is compassionate and gracious. He doesn’t treat us as our sins deserve. As far as the east is from the west He’s removed our sins.

God does punish the sinner if he does not repent. The spirit of God works in our lives to purify us and keep us until the judgement day.

Num.11:1 God does punish the sinner if they don’t repent with fire, but not to eternal death.

The spirit of God works in our lives to purify us. The spirit of God will keep us from sin. On judgement day, Christ who is without sin will be there and when the books are open, those in Christ will go to heaven.

**Sura 9:51 “Nothing shall ever befall us except what Allah has ordained for us”

**Sura 76:30 “ He will admit to his mercy whom he wills but the wrong doers for them he has prepared a grievous penalty.”

The bible also says that God will have mercy on whom he will have mercy **Ex 33:19 and Rom 9:15**, But along with this is God's love. So in the bible, because of God's love, the person who does wrong can confess his sin and will then be forgiven and not be punished.

****According to Islamic tradition (Hadith):** -The bridge to heaven "is only as wide as a hair, not even good deeds guarantee admission to paradise"

Mat 7:14 The Narrow gate. Jesus is he gate.

Mat.19: 24 Jesus said "I tell you the truth it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven".

This is because we cannot earn our way to heaven.

Eph 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith- and this is not from yourselves-it is the gift of God not of works so that no-one can boast."

Rom 4. God accepted Abraham through faith not because of his good deeds.

Mat 24:31 Jesus will send his angels to gather up all those who believe in him and take them to be with him in heaven. There will be a resurrection of all who have died.

John5: 24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned: he has crossed over from death to life".

John5; 25 spiritually dead.

John 5:28,29 "For a time is coming when all who are in there graves will hear his voice and will come out-those who have done good will rise to live and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned"

We must understand this verse remembering the verses before. How can we do good? It is good to believe in Jesus then we have eternal life. It is not good to knowingly reject Christ.

John 3:36 If you reject the son you will not see life for God's anger remains on him".

John 6:14 "For my fathers will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day"

John 11:25 "After Lazarus had died, Jesus said to Martha "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will never die"

****Steven Masood (A Pakistani Christian who was a Muslim)** wrote when Muslims have buried their dead and left the grave, two angels, Munkar and Nakir, interrogate the dead man in the grave. They ask three questions: who is your God? Who is your prophet? What is your religion?

The bible says that when we die we will go to be with God in heaven.

****As a Muslim and according to Muslim tradition,** it is possible that you might get to heaven if

- a) You do good works and keep the five practices or pillars on which the faith stands. Sura 47:2
- b) Through the will and mercy of God. Sura 2; 105
- c) Doing good works, having faith and avoiding big sins. Sura 2;05
- d) Through martyrdom. Martyrs are promised instant paradise. Sura 3; 195
- e) Through the prayers of saints.
- f) If you pilgrimage to Mecca, especially if you die by the Ka'ba itself.

But there is no certainty in Islam of going to heaven. If you're not good enough then you will be in hell, which brings about physical punishment with flames, literal physical torment swooning.

John 3: 16 "But God so Loved the World that he gave his only son that whoever believes in Him will not die but have everlasting life".

The bible also talks of Hell, fire and damnation for those who don't believe in Jesus, but offers **Love** in a way that Islam doesn't. It is a selfless love. Jesus died for us while we were still sinners.

****The Quran** talks of a kind of love known as Wadud. Sura 11:92 and in Sura 85:14. This is the love of a master for a faithful servant, not of a father for his son. Allah only loves those who love him, which is in contrast to what the Apostle John writes in his first letter:-

1 John 4:16 "And we know and rely on the Love God has for us. God is Love. Whoever lives in love, lives for God, and God in him".

God demands a selfless love. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind", (the 1st and greatest commandment). All the laws, & teachings of the prophets are summed up here by love.

It is a kind of love, that does not come from being afraid of God or of His anger or from seeking to gain Gods approval, it is not self-motivated (as in Islam.)

On the contrary it is Love, coming from the heart and given by God himself through Jesus Christ.

This kind of love results in us being able to stand firm for Christ in all circumstances and after we have done everything still stand firm. **Eph 6:13** It is a genuine love without fear in the heart.

Those who stand firm in Love will receive the crown of Glory and will reign with Christ. **Rev 20: 4**