

Does the Soul Go Back to God?

We are faced with church-doctrine stating that the soul is eternal. To validate this claim, I offer the following background. Dr. Frank Turek is cited as often saying, "When we die, we don't cease to exist; we simply change location."¹ The Bible Hub claims that, "Throughout biblical writings, the soul indicates far more than a transient spark of existence. It reflects the unique, immaterial aspect of human identity that endures beyond physical death."² Ecclesiastics 2:7 is often quoted as reference that the soul doesn't die, but rather, goes back to God when a person dies.

The soul is not eternal; the dead are not alive.

(Eccl 12:7 KJV) Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

¹ <https://biblical-christianity.com/are-the-soul-and-spirit-eternal>

² https://biblehub.com/q/is_the_soul_mortal_or_immortal.htm



But does this truly mean that the soul goes back to God?

We can't answer that question until we study this topic in God's word.

Our key verse:

(1 Cor 15:45 KJV) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

What does the reference to the living soul mean? What does reference to the quickening spirit mean?

The beginning of our quest to determine if the soul goes to God when a person dies lies in the resurrection story, specifically, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(1 Cor 15:3-4 KJV) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; {4} And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Jesus went through the greatest transformation known to man. God gave His son a new body; Jesus did not continue in his old body. To believe that Jesus is still in his old, soul-driven body is completely contrary to the concept of Christ's resurrected body.

The dead shall rise:

(1 Cor 15:4 KJV) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Let's begin to understand the nature of the soul. The soul can become lean, showing its weakness.

(Prov 3:20-22 KJV) By his knowledge the depths are

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broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. {21} My son, let not them (God's knowledge) depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: {22} So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

The soul receives life from God's knowledge. The soul is tender and responds greatly to God's Word.

We learn that the soul can become corrupted.

(Prov 6:32 KJV) But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

A man can destroy his soul by committing adultery. We learn that the soul can be destroyed.

Have you ever heard that about the Christ in you? I doubt it; your gift of holy spirit cannot be maimed in any way. It is incorruptible.

(Prov 21:23 KJV) Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

The soul is subject to affliction by the very words a man speaks. We are taught to keep our mouth and tongue so that our soul

won't be troubled.

Genesis 2:7 was mentioned earlier as others' proof that the soul is eternal.

(Gen 2:7 KJV) 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.

In verse seven, there is no proof of an eternal soul. There is proof that God breathed life into Adam's nostrils and then Adam had a living soul.

Man should not extrapolate a meaning that, because God breathed into Adam, that Adam's soul became eternal. There are hundreds of Bible verses showing how frail and prone to death the soul is. God breathed into Adam so that he would become a living soul. The 'soul' part that Adam had needed to be activated, so to speak. Great whales, and all living flesh, have souls. Does that mean that their souls are eternal too? Heavens, no.

Psalms declares how fragile the soul is; it can die.

(Psa 56:13 KJV) For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

The soul can have near-death experiences; it can die.

(Psa 78:50 KJV) He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

The soul can die; all men shall face this end.

(Psa 89:48 KJV) What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.

Let's venture back to our key verse.

1 Co 15: 45 And so it is written [So it has been written also], The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made [became into] a quickening spirit [used in reference to the resurrected body].

Using input from the Companion Bible, my literal according to usage of verse 45 is as follows:

So it has been written also: We have the proofs from nature and analogy of the variety and resources in the Divine working, and the testimony of the Word

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besides.

{46} Howbeit that was not first which is [But not first the] spiritual, but that which is [but the] natural; and afterward that which is [the] spiritual.

Literal: But not first the spiritual, but the natural; afterward the spiritual.

As we pursue an answer to whether the soul is eternal, whether, upon death, it goes to God, we learn that the natural body, meaning the sensuous body came first; then comes the spiritual.

We've learned that the soul of man is prone to various weaknesses including troubles and death. The latter validates that the soul cannot be eternal. The soul is a part of man, as is the human body. Non-Christians are individuals of body and soul. They have no gift from God, holy spirit. The gift of holy spirit becomes a third part of man once he is born again. A man of body, soul and holy spirit is a complete man. The gift of holy spirit is part of God, and forever remains as such, even upon death. Upon death, the body goes back to dust, the soul ceases to exist, and the gift of holy spirit

remains part of God.

It would be good to consider the nature of the gift of holy spirit. We will see that this gift in no way compares to the soul.

Christ in you is life in you:

(Col 1:27 KJV) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

We have Christ in us. In the Bible, the soul is never glorified. In Christians, Christ is our glory.

(2 Cor 2:15-16 KJV) For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: {16} To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life [zoe] unto life [zoe]. And who is sufficient for these things?

Zoe, a Greek word, means 'life in all of its abundance.' Christ in us is the savour of life unto life. It is literally considered to be a Christian's life force. The soul was the body's life force, but Christ in you assumed this role. Yes, you still need a soul for your life-breath, but you also need Christ to live the more than abundant life [zoe].

We have been gifted a token of the spiritual transition, akin to what Christ experienced in his resurrection.

(Col 3:3-4 KJV) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. {4} When Christ, who is our life [zoe], shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Literal of 1 Cor 15:45:

So it has been written also, The first man Adam became into a living soul; the last Adam, the resurrected one, became into a life-giving spirit.

No matter how you view it, Christ in you is a heavenly entity gifted from on High. The soul resides in the blood and is not considered an eternal spiritual gift from on High. The soul dies when a person takes his last breath—it does not go back to God. The gift of holy spirit is part of God and remains so until the Gathering Together when Christians will be gifted new spiritual bodies.

Much Love in Christ.

Jerry D. Brown