

SOUL (NIV Dictionary of The Bible)

“HEART” – is the self as manifesting a complex of attitudes

“SPIRIT” – is the self when thought of apart from earthly connections. When the blessed dead in heaven are spoken of as having been put to a martyr’s death, they are called “souls” (Rev 6:9). When there is no reference to their former bodily experience they are called “spirits” (Heb 12:23)

There are many, however, who hold to a trichotomous view, arguing that “soul” and “spirit” are two distinct substantive entities, and the body, a third.

Rev 6:9

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.

The altar represents the altar of sacrifice in the temple, where animals were sacrificed to atone for sins. Instead of the animals blood at the base of the altar. John saw the souls of martyrs who had died for preaching the Good News. These martyrs were told that still more would lose their lives for their belief in Christ (6:11). In the face of warfare, famine, persecution, and death, Christians will be called on to stand firmly for what they believe. Only those who endure to the end will be rewarded by God (Mark 13:13)

Hebrews 12:23

You have come to the assembly of God’s firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all

things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever

It expresses as simply and clearly as any the role of God as our protector and provider in life. The Lord is compared to a shepherd and the believer to His sheep; then the Lord is likened to a host with the believer as the guest. The image of the Lord as shepherd is a frequent one in both the Old Testament and the New

Psalm 42

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

Psalm 63

God satisfies the thirsting soul

O God thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is:

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness: and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes.

But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

This psalm is overflowing with thanksgiving rather than lament and petition. David declares his longing for spiritual renewal, he expresses his thankful mood, he gives voice to his trust in God, and he announces his hope for the future. Enemies are mentioned only in passing.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

OUR BIGGEST BATTLES IN LIFE ARE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

Have you ever felt that there was a battle being waged for your soul?

PROMISES

God will-----

Enable you to overcome (1 John 4:4)

Enable you to stand (Ephesians 6:13)

Deliver you from evil (2 Timothy 4:18)

Protect you (James 4:7)

When caring for your soul, it is good to remember-----

The spiritual world—with both good and evil forces—is part of reality (Ephesians 6:12)

Satan is intent on shipwrecking your faith—both through obvious attacks (1 Peter 5:8) and subtle temptations (2 Corinthians 11:14)

We must put on the “armor” of God to withstand Satan’s attacks, including faith, righteousness, truth, prayer, the Word of God, and salvation (Ephesians 6:14-18).

We need not live in fear, for the grandest truth of all is that “God’s Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world” (1 John 4:4)

If for the prize we have striven, after our labors are o’er, Rest to our souls will be given, on the eternal shore,

Home of the soul.