

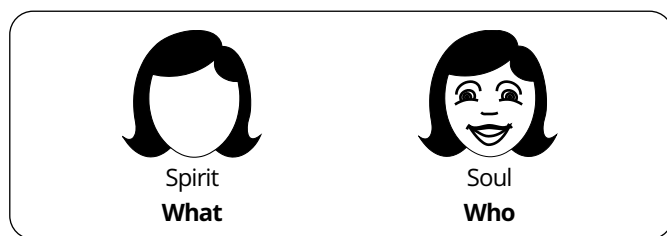
The soul is not an object of itself — yet Paul lists it as one unit of 3 that describes each person: *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* [1Th 5:23].

Paul presents these units as separate entities, but this verse does not explain how they differ or how they work together to create one complete person.

The soul is easy to understand, but a little difficult to explain. Even so, we must understand what it is because it is the central element of salvation.

### The Human Divisions

To understand these components, we must know how they relate to one another. Do they exist independently, or does the death of one terminate all? If no, how can the soul be one component of three and not be an entity within itself? One picture and three brief statements answer these questions:

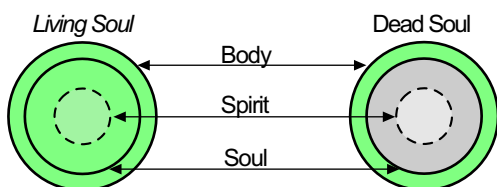


Your spirit is what you are.  
 Your soul is who you are.  
 Your body is the house of your Spirit - which is your Who.

John spoke of souls separated from their bodies: *“And ... I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God”* [Re 6:9]. James spoke of bodies separated from their spirits: *“For as the body without the spirit is dead,...”* [Jas 2:26].

How could John speak of the soul and not mention the spirit? And how could James speak of the spirit and not mention the soul? The spirit is *“What the spirit is;”* the soul is *“Who”* the spirit is. The soul is the personality of the spirit. The soul and spirit are the same entity.

This understanding is crucial to salvation: of the body, of the spirit, and of the soul. Only with the correct definitions of the spirit, soul, and body can we know that we understand the 3 doctrines of salvation correctly.



### The Composite Man

Knowing that the spirit and soul are 2 aspects of the same entity, both separate from their shared body, we can study the composite man.

Let's begin with the scripture that describes Adam's formation: [1] *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, [2] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; [3] and man became a living soul”* [Ge 2:7]. Let's interpret this verse one segment at a time.

[1] God formed the man of dust. To form anything, you construct or mold some material into a desired shape. So then, God molded the first man of dust.

[Ge 2:6 speaks of watering the *“whole face of the ground.”* And Job 4:19 speaks of this ground as clay. Science agrees — the human body is 75% water.]

[2] God breathed the *“breath of life”* into the *“nostrils.”* Strong's definition [H639 from H599] shows that nostrils represent passions. Thus, God breathed the *“breath of life”* into the *“passions”* of the man formed of dust.

Something within God's *“breath”* imparted life to the man's soul. Strong's definition of breath [H5397] is a puff, i.e., wind. Wind represents doctrine: *“... and carried about with every wind of doctrine...”* [Eph 4:14]. We can review the whole verse after two more definitions.

Strong's definitions show *“breath of life,”* as *“doctrine of life.”* Read this: *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet... And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death”* [Ro 7:7, 10]. Study these verses until you see that the *“doctrine of life”* is the Ten Commandments.”

[3] The 3rd segment of Ge 2:7 summarizes segments one and two: *“... and man became a living soul.”* This soul was alive because of the copy of God's righteousness within the soul. Substitute the definitions and read the verse again:

Ge. 2:7: *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and indoctrinated [into] his passions [with] the doctrine of life; and man became a living soul.*

The soul is the form of the spirit: *“... the spirit of man knows the things of man...”* [1Co 2:11]. The things the spirit knows gives the spirit its form.

Physical and spiritual, every entity has form. Even knowledge has form: *“An instructor of the foolish,... which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.”* [Ro 2:20]