

Disclaimer

As with many of these kinds of teachings, this is not designed to create a crisis of faith. This is not an attempt to have anyone change their faith but to change the way we practice our faith in **יהוה** and apply His sacred word to our lives so that we live the way He designed us to live.

*“So God will cause them
to be greatly deceived,
and they will believe
these lies.”*

(2 Thessalonians 2:11^{NLT})

THE FORBIDDEN TEACHING

In my process to develop a teaching I was drawn to a concept that I only knew little about, but one that could have a profound effect on a person's belief. After gathering 60 pages of single spaced notes, where I ended up is FAR from where I thought I'd be going.

WHAT DO WE
KNOW ABOUT
OUR SOUL?

Every person has a soul

We receive it at birth

The soul never dies

The soul can pass between the
physical and spiritual world

The soul may spend eternity with
Yehovah or burning in the
Lake of Fire

Five levels of the soul - Kabbalah
In Jewish mysticism the human soul has five levels

Level of Soul	Nature
<u>Nefesh</u> ("Lifeforce")	Conscious aspect of soul - Action.
<u>Ruach</u> ("Spirit")	Conscious aspect of soul - Emotions.
<u>Neshamah</u> ("Soul")	Conscious aspect of soul - Intellect.
<u>Chayah</u> ("Living")	Transcendent unconscious level of soul - Wisdom.
Yechida ("Singular")	Essential, transcendent root of soul - Delight & Faith. It is also described as absolute compassion.

Numerous cultures and religions have proposed answers to this question – What Do We Know About Our Soul? The variety of explanations can be summarized by three basic options:

1. There is no afterlife, death is literally the end of life for all eternity. This is the answer commonly proposed by atheists. We should live life to its fullest, perhaps do something to help make the world a better place (or not) and prepare to die because after that there is nothing more.

2. The soul is unique and its outcome will depend on how you live your life.

3. Your soul is not unique, and after death, humans are reincarnated into a different kind of life-form, moving up or down the hierarchy of existence based on how they live.

What Is Reincarnation?

Reincarnation is the rebirth of a soul into a new body. Usually the person has little or no memories of past lives.

Certain religions believe that good deeds in a past life can lead you to have a better standing or social position in the next life (or bad deeds can lead to lower positions).

Have you
experienced any
of the following?

You keep having the same
dreams

You have strong intuition

You have some weird memories

You have feelings of deja vu

You literally "feel for others"

Recall past lives

CHRIST TAUGHT REINCARNATION explained by Hans Wilhelm



CHRIST TOUGHT REINCARNATION

(Reincarnation part 2)

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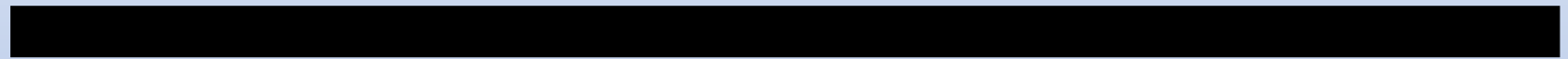
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HAVE I CROSSED THE
LINE YET?

TRUTH



TRADITION

WHAT REALLY
HAPPENS
TO YOUR SOUL?

~~Every person has a soul~~

~~We receive it at birth~~

~~The soul never dies~~

~~The soul can pass between the
physical and spiritual world~~

~~The soul may spend eternity with
Yehovah or burning in the
Lake of Fire~~

The typical Christian belief, preached for over 1,000 years, is that after death, the human soul continues to live in an alternate state. The soul either ascends to the reward of heaven after death or descends to punishment in hell.

Warning!!!

This teaching originated long before Christianity.

In fact, it is the belief of many ancient pagan religions and cultures—including those in Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

THE BIG LIE

THE FORBIDDEN TEACHING

DUALISM

Dualism - there are two distinct elements of human existence - the body and the soul.

At death, a person's soul disconnects from his or her body and remains conscious.

Many Christians assume that this belief in an immortal soul is taught in the Bible. The roots of this doctrine are NOT in the Bible—but in ancient pagan beliefs and philosophy.

Though nearly all ancient pagan religions had some form of belief in an immortal soul, it wasn't until the advent of Greek philosophy that the idea became a thoroughly developed teaching. Historians credit the Greek philosopher Plato (5th century B.C.) with the philosophy of the immortal soul.

Plato's ideas were influenced by earlier Greek philosophers Pythagoras and Socrates.

Plato taught that humans possessed a soul that could never be destroyed.

The doctrine of humans possessing an immortal soul is not found in the Bible. Yet most mainstream Christian churches hold to this doctrine, believing that after the body dies, the soul continues to live on in another state (typically heaven or hell).

How did this
unbiblical doctrine
become a standard
Christian teaching?

This immortal soul doctrine entered Christendom early in the third century (nearly 200 years after Yahshua).

As Christianity expanded throughout the Roman Empire, certain thinkers and teachers began to combine elements of the Christian message with the other philosophies and religions that existed throughout the Roman Empire at that time.

This is known
as syncretism.

The doctrine of the immortal soul is a major example of an unbiblical teaching being syncretized from paganism into Christianity in the 1st-3rd century

Men such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, inadvertently or overtly, introduced Greek philosophical ideas, that are contrary to the teachings of the Bible, into Christianity.

SO WHAT DOES
THE BIBLE SAY
ABOUT
REINCARNATION?

The idea of reincarnation is never mentioned in the Bible.

The Bible does not mention people having a second chance or coming back as someone or something different.

Yehovah is very specific
in His word that our
body is mortal, and our
spirit will have eternal
life either with Him or
away from Him.

*“And just as it is
appointed for man to die
once, and after that
comes judgment.”*

(Hebrews 9:27).

“He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return”

(Psalm 78:39).

Scripture makes it clear that we have one life on earth before we receive an eternal judgment and verdict (based on whether we accepted Yahshua as our Savior and Lord and follow the Torah).

We don't get several
lives here on earth to
make the right
decision;
we have only the one.

THE HEBREW CONCEPT OF THE SOUL -

NEPHESH

נֶפֶשׁ nephesh

נֶפֶשׁ

In the Old Testament,
the Hebrew word
translated "being" or
"soul" in English Bibles
is nephesh. This word
simply means "a living,
breathing creature."

The word nephesh can describe any kind of living creature. The word translated "creatures" in Genesis 1:21 describing animals is the plural form of nephesh.

21 "God created the great sea monsters, and all the living creatures of every kind that creep, which the waters brought forth in swarms, and all the winged birds of every kind. And God saw that this was good."

The Jewish Study Bible

Whereas the earth and the waters (at God's command) bring forth the plants, fish, birds, and other animals (Genesis 1:12, 20, 24), humankind has a different origin and a different character.

Contrary to the Dualist theory that man is composed of two distinct elements - body and soul - Genesis 2:7 declares that man is a soul.

“The LORD God formed man (adam) from the dust of the earth. He blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.”

Jewish Study Bible

Man has a closer and more intimate relationship with his Creator, who blows the breath of life into him, transforming that lowly, earth-bound creature into a living being. In this understanding, the human being is not an amalgam of perishable body and immortal soul, but a psychophysical unity who depends on God for life itself.

So in Genesis we see that a soul is simply what a human being is—a physical, living, breathing creature.

It is the whole person or creature - this includes the body, mind, emotion, character and inner parts.

In the Bible, a "soul" isn't something you have; it's something you are. To love God with all of your "Nephesh" is to go beyond a superficial faith and make a "soul-level" commitment

Nephesh (Strong's #5315)

nephesh: a soul, living being,
life, self, person, desire,
passion, appetite, emotion

Original Word: נֶפֶשׁ

Part of Speech: Noun Feminine

Transliteration: nephesh

Phonetic Spelling: (neh'-fesh)

If we look at the various ways in which this word is translated in an English translation, we see a wide variation in its interpretation.

Some of these translations include; soul, life, person, mind, heart, creature, body, dead, desire, man, appetite, thing, self, beast, pleasure, ghost, breath and will.

In the Hebrew mind we are composed of multiple parts. The body is the flesh and bones, the vessel. The organs are viewed as the seats of thought (the heart), emotion (the kidneys), intuition (gut), etc. The breath is one's character, what makes a person who they are.

The soul is the whole of the person, the unity of the body, organs and breath. It is not some immaterial spiritual entity, it is you, all of you, your whole being or self.

We saw earlier in
Genesis 2:7 that
man came alive
because God
breathed into him.

This Breath of
Life = Spirit

It was the “breath of life” from God that made Adam a “living being” with temporary physical life.

Six scriptures in the Bible refer to a spiritual element known as "the spirit in man" or "the spirit of man."

The first place this term
appears in the Bible is in
Job 32:8:

*“But there is a spirit in
man, and the breath of
the Almighty gives him
understanding.”*

“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?” (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Paul contrasts the “spirit of man” with the Spirit of God. The “spirit of man” allows us to understand “the things of a man” (the physical realm), but to appreciate and grasp the spiritual requires another spirit—the Spirit of God.

(Ecclesiastes 12:7)

*And the dust returns to the
ground As it was,
And the lifebreath returns
to God
Who bestowed it.*

Ecclesiastes 12:7 reveals that this spirit in man "will return to God who gave it" after we die. Dualists assume this is referring to an immortal soul going to heaven. But there is no indication that this spirit in man is conscious apart from the body.

THE MORTAL SOUL

We have seen that the Bible clearly teaches that we are souls (living creatures).

But are we created immortal—as many believe and teach?

We see in Genesis that God revealed to Adam the consequences of eating from the forbidden tree (sin):

“For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”
(Genesis 2:17).

*"Death spread to all men,
because all sinned."*
(Romans 5:12)

*"Consider, all lives are Mine;
the life of the parent and the
life of the child are both Mine.
The person who sins, only he
shall die."*
(Ezekiel 18:4)

Perhaps the most important scripture on this topic was written by the apostle Paul.

In Romans 6:23 he wrote very clearly :

"For the wages of sin is death."

The Bible is clear that Yehovah
"alone has immortality"
(1 Timothy 6:16)

¹⁶ *"who alone has immortality,
who dwells in unapproachable
light, whom no one has ever seen
or can see. To him be honor and
eternal dominion. Amen."*

Humans are “mortal”
(Romans 6:12).

¹² *“Let not sin therefore
reign in your mortal
body, to make you obey
its passions.”*

The only being in the Bible who made the claim that humans inherently possess immortality was Satan.

When Satan (disguised as a serpent) was working to convince Eve to take of the forbidden fruit, he made this statement:
“You will not surely die”
(Genesis 3:4).

By openly contradicting God's command that eating from the forbidden tree would result in death (Genesis 2:17), Satan laid the groundwork for one of many false doctrines he has foisted on humanity — the doctrine of the immortality of the soul.

This idea of the immortality of the soul comes from ancient pagan beliefs and Greek philosophy.

Early church leaders introduced the immortal soul doctrine in an attempt to reconcile Greek philosophy with Christianity.

The Bible teaches
that humans are
mortal beings
who will
eventually die.

Since the soul dies, it is the spirit in man that contains the complete record of each person—our thoughts, memories, personalities and character.

At death it is that record
that returns to God.
When He resurrects
human beings, He will
put that same spiritual
element in their
resurrected bodies.

Summary

The soul is what a human being is—
a physical, living, breathing
creature.

Your soul is mortal – your spirit
(given by Yehovah) is immortal

The soul cannot pass between the
physical and spiritual world

Dualism – The Big Lie - There are two distinct elements of human existence—the body and the soul.

How the Big Lie became engrained in Christian church dogma

Reincarnation is never mentioned in the Bible

Your soul will not go to Heaven

The Hebrew Concept Of The Soul –
NEPHESH

Man came alive because God
breathed into him.

Breath of Life = Spirit

A Final Point To Ponder

Is your
nephesh נַפְשׁ a
reflection of your
Creator?

