

I had composed a tract titled *Seventh-day Adventist Death Confusion* and I sent it to the leader of a Seventh-day Adventist independent ministry in an attempt to help the speakers thereof stop saying stupid things. I received a letter from the leader of that ministry and additional material on the state of the dead. Understand that I don't believe the soul or spirit of a person is conscious when the body dies; it is sleeping. I also know that the wicked are eventually completely destroyed, body and soul, in Hell fire and don't suffer for eternal ages.

What I've heard repeatedly from Seventh-day Adventist ministers is that a person is a soul and that a person doesn't have a soul. That is absolutely wrong. A person can be called a soul and a person also has a soul as you can learn from any good English dictionary and from your King James Version (KJV) Bible. That's true because in English and other languages the same word can mean different things depending on the context in which they are used. "Soul" can mean a person or the mental processes or intellect of that person. The leader of the ministry either didn't read the tract or had trouble understanding English. Here are some quotations from parts of his letter and the enclosure that accompanied it.

"The doctrine of the immortality of the soul came into the church through pagan philosophers many centuries ago, so most people have taken it for granted and not known what the Bible really teaches. Scripture reveals that God alone possesses 'immortality.'"

First of all, nothing in the tract said the soul is immortal in the sense that it can't be destroyed and secondly "the Bible really teaches" that a righteous person has immortality given by God.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death." John 8:51 from the King James Version (KJV).

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28 (KJV).

"Never see death" and "never perish" both mean never die in English. Those who have accepted and follow Christ's teaching never die in the sense that God keeps a memory all that constituted their intellect and restores it from a sleeping state to a conscious state when He resurrects that person's body.

The letter also said, "The Bible does not support the idea of the soul as a separate entity that can exist without the body." Actually, the Bible does clearly support that. Also, depending on the context in which it's used, "spirit" can mean the same thing as "soul."

"And they journeyed from Beth-el; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin." Genesis 35:16-18 (KJV).

"And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto

Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.” 1 Kings 17:17-22 (KJV).

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

“Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.” Job 7:11 (KJV).

Seventh-day Adventist ministers commonly tell you what the Greek and Hebrew say when they don't understand English and they assume no one will question what they say because they obviously know Greek and Hebrew when, in fact, most of them couldn't order a sandwich in Israel or Greece in the native language. It's also unlikely that many Seventh-day Adventists or other Christians even have a concordance that gives meanings of Greek and Hebrew words so they give obeisance to the obviously very learned preacher. This tactic was used in the enclosure. It said:

“In the Old Testament ‘soul’ is a translation of the Hebrew *nephesh*. In Genesis 2:7 it denotes man as a living being after the breath of life entered into a physical body formed from the elements of the earth. The word *nephesh* denotes not part of a person; but it is the ‘person.’”

I have a *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. I looked up “soul” in my concordance as related to Genesis 2:7 and it says to go to Hebrew word number 5315. Here is the complete definition of *nephesh* as far as I could reproduce it. I had no way to reproduce the Hebrew characters so they're omitted.

5315 **nephesh**, *neh'-fesh*; from 5314; prop. a *breathing* creature, i.e. *animal* or (abstr.) *vitality*; used very widely in a lit., accommodated or fig. sense (bodily or mental):-any, appetite, beast, body, breath, creature, X dead (-ly), desire, X [dis-] contented, X fish, ghost, + greedy, he, heart (-y), (hath, X jeopardy of) life (X in jeopardy), lust, man, me, mind, mortality, one, own, person, pleasure, (her-, him-, my-, thy-) self, them (your) -selves, + slay, soul, + tablet, they, thing, (X she) will, X would have it.

Do you understand all of that? To say that soul simply means “a living being” is false because that word obviously can mean more than that and, what do you know, some of the possible meanings include “mind” and “mental.” The mind and mental process of a person are obviously a part of a person. Let's try an English dictionary; specifically, the *Oxford English Reference Dictionary* (revised second edition). Once again, there were a few symbols at the beginning of the definition I had no way to reproduce.

soul *n.* **1** the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being often regarded as immortal. **2** the moral or emotional or intellectual nature of a person. **3** the personification or pattern of something (*the very soul of discretion*). **4** an individual (*not a soul in sight*). **5 a** a person regarded with familiarity or pity etc. (*the poor soul was utterly confused*). **b** a person regarded as embodying moral or intellectual qualities (*left that to meaner souls*). **6** a person regarded as the animating or essential part of something (*the life and soul of the party*). **7** emotional or intellectual energy or intensity, esp. as revealed in a work of art (*pictures that lack soul*). **8** black American culture or music etc. (see SOUL MUSIC).

Which definition is easiest to understand? THIS ISN'T HARD!!! Ellen G. White DID NOT KNOW GREEK OR HEBREW AND SHE SAID THE ENGLISH BIBLE IS INFALLIBLE! Do you know what infallible means? If you think it can mean a little error once in a while, get out an ENGLISH dictionary and de-delude yourself.

“Man is fallible, but God’s Word is infallible.” *Selected Messages Book One* page 416.

The enclosure also said:

“Although the Bible views the nature of man as a unity, it does not precisely define the relationship between body, soul, and spirit. At times soul and spirit are used interchangeably. In one instance man is characterized by Jesus as body and soul (Matt. 10:28) and in another instance by Paul as body and spirit (1 Cor. 7:34). In the former *soul* refers to the higher faculty of man, presumably the mind, though (*sic*) which he communicates with God. In the latter, *spirit* refers to this higher faculty. In both instances the body includes the physical, as well as the emotional, aspects of a person.”

It's apparently understood by some that soul and spirit can mean the same thing and that both can mean the mental faculties of man. Why don't they just say that? Why yap about what the Hebrew says?

The last sentence in the quotation says a body “includes” physical and emotional aspects of a person. Whoever wrote that already said soul and spirit can be used interchangeably and that “spirit” can refer to the mind. The soul, or you could say spirit, are IN a living person’s body; they are NOT part of that body as can be easily demonstrated by one of the verses referenced in that quotation.

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 (KJV).

Get that? There is the life of the body and the life of the soul. I have been amazed that such a simple concept seems to be beyond the understanding of many including paid, experienced, purveyors of truth. Here is a quotation from a statement made by Sister White in writing to one of her relatives.

“You have another life to sustain than that which is nourished by temporal bread. You have a soul to look to carefully lest it shall be lost forever...” *Ellen G. White Manuscript Releases 3* page 202 or Letter 2a, 1892.

I'm not going to trouble you with the definitions a couple of other words mentioned in the enclosure; *ruach* and *pneuma*. If you like to suffer, look them up in a concordance. Otherwise, just take your King James Version Bible as it reads and use an English dictionary if you need to.

www.SatanIsDead.com

www.InfallibleBible.com

www.DeathConfusion.com

www.AdventistsToday.com

www.SabbathSchoolGuide.com