

Lesson 51: What Happens When a Person Dies?, Part 1

Memory Verse: Psalm 146:3-4 "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."

1. Why do people die? Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by _____ man _____ entered into the _____, and _____ by _____; and so _____ passed upon _____ men, for that _____ have _____."
Romans 6:23 "For the _____ of _____ is _____; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. God had told Adam and Eve: "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou _____ eat of it: for in the day that thou _____ thereof thou _____."
Genesis 2:16-17

Genesis 5:5 "And all the _____ that Adam _____ were _____ hundred and _____ years: and he _____."

2 Peter 3:8 "But, beloved, be not _____ of this _____ thing, that _____ day is with the _____ as a _____ years, and a _____ years as _____ day."

Note: "But what did Adam, after his sin, find to be the meaning of the words, 'In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die'? **Did he find them to mean, as Satan had led him to believe, that he was to be ushered into a more exalted state of existence?** Then indeed there was great good to be gained by transgression, and Satan was proved to be a benefactor of the race. **But Adam did not find this to be the meaning of the divine sentence.** God declared that as a penalty for his sin, man should **return to the ground** whence he was taken: 'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.' Gen. 3:19. The words of Satan, 'Your eyes shall be opened,' proved to be true in this sense only: After Adam and Eve had disobeyed God, **their eyes were opened to discern their folly; they did know evil, and they tasted the bitter fruit of transgression.**" GC 532.2

"When he sinned he was **cut off** from partaking of the **tree of life**, and he became **subject to death**. The divine sentence, 'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,' points to the **utter extinction of life.**" GC 532.3

"Oh, wonderful condescension! The Majesty of heaven, through **love** and **pity** for fallen man, proposed to become his **substitute** and **surety**. **He would bear man's guilt.** He would take the **wrath** of His Father upon Himself, **which otherwise would have fallen upon man because of his disobedience.**" Con 16.3

3. When they disobeyed God and believed the serpent instead of God, what was the result? Genesis 3:19 God said to Adam: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou _____ unto the _____; for _____ of it wast thou _____: for _____ thou _____, and unto _____ shalt thou _____."

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4. When God created Adam, how did He do it? Genesis 2:7 "And the Lord God _____ man of the _____ of the _____, and _____ into his nostrils the _____ of _____; and man _____ a _____ soul."

5. When God formed the man out of the dust of the ground **before** he breathed the breath of life into his nostrils,

How much did he know? N_____.

Could he talk? YES NO

Could he see anything? YES NO

Could he think? YES NO

Could he walk or move? YES NO

When did he become a person who could know, talk, see, think, and move?

When God "_____ into his nostrils the _____ of _____", he "**became** a _____ soul", or a living person.

Without the breath of life he was just a clay image – just dirt.

6. Who gave him the breath of life? _____

7. Was the breath of life anything that could see, talk, move, think, or know anything?

YES NO

When did he become a living, moving, talking, seeing, thinking, knowing person, or soul?

It was when the B_____ of _____ was **put into** the man who had been

F_____ from the _____ of the ground that he _____ a living

soul. Did God GIVE him a living soul? YES NO

Did he HAVE a living soul? YES NO

The Bible says that he B_____ a living soul.

8. We can find out what this soul really is by reading 2 texts of Scripture that talk about the same thing:

Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man _____, if he shall _____ the whole _____, and _____ his own _____? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Luke 9:25 "For what is a man _____, if he _____ the whole _____, and _____, or be cast away?"

Matthew says that it is no profit for a person to gain the whole world and lose his own _____.

Luke says that it is no advantage for a person to gain the whole world and lose _____.

So therefore, the soul of a man is _____, his person.

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Now let us look at what the Bible says about a person when he dies.

9. When God made man, Genesis 2:7 tells us He made him of 2 parts:

1. The _____ of the ground
2. The _____ of life

These two parts **put together**, made a _____ soul, or person. You cannot have a living soul without either one of the parts. They **both** have to be there together before there is a living soul.

10. Just as God gives man breath, He can take it back. When He takes away our B_____, we D_____ and become D_____ again. Psalm 104:29

11. When the body returns to dust, the S_____ returns to God who gave it. Ecc. 12:7 The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. The Hebrew word for *breath* in Psalm 104:29 is *ruwach*. The Hebrew word for *spirit* in Ecclesiastes 12:7 is exactly the same word – *ruwach*.

We find in *Strong's Concordance* that *ruwach* means **wind** or **breath; figuratively – life**. The S_____ that God gives us is **life**, signified by the B_____ in our nostrils. When we stop breathing, we die within a few minutes.

12. When we die, our body returns to D_____ and our S_____ [breath] returns to God. But the SOUL goes nowhere! It just ceases to exist. When the breath is gone, we cannot have a soul, because a soul must have both a B_____ and B_____.

13. Examples: When you switch on a light, 2 things are needed:

1. a light bulb
2. electricity

If one of those is missing, there will be no light. When you switch off the light, the light doesn't go anywhere; it just ceases to exist.

In order to make a box, you need 2 things:

1. boards
2. nails

You must put these two things **together** to have a box. If you take one of them away, you do not have a box anymore. You have a pile of nails or a pile of wood. That's all. There is no box and it didn't go anywhere either.

The soul is the same way. When the breath is gone, there is no soul. Unless there is both body and breath, there cannot be a S_____.

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14. Job says: "All the while my _____ is in me, and the _____ of God is in my nostrils; My _____ shall not _____ wickedness, nor my _____ utter _____." Job 27:3,4 Notice the parallel use of breath and spirit.

When a person still has breath, he can speak with his tongue and lips. He can choose whether to speak good words or evil words. How inspiring to hear Job confess that he would never speak wickedness as long as God Almighty gave him breath. He would be true to God until his death.

15. When a person dies, what happens to his ability to think? Psalm 146:3,4

"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His _____ goeth forth, he _____ to his earth; _____ his thoughts _____."

When a person dies their breath is gone. When the breath is gone, then there is no ability to think anymore. A dead person has no thoughts at all.

16. How much do the dead know? Ecclesiastes 9:5 _____

"For the living _____ that they shall die: but the dead _____, neither have they any more a _____; for the memory of them is forgotten."

17. What happens to their feelings? Ecclesiastes 9:6, first part: "Also their _____, and their _____, and their _____, is now _____."

They do not have any kind of feelings anymore. Feelings are produced by our thoughts. We learned that the thoughts perish, so, of course, the feelings perish also.

18. Do they have anything to do with anything that happens on this earth after their death? Ecclesiastes 9:6, last part: "neither have they _____ more a _____ for _____ in _____ thing that is _____ under the _____."

19. Solomon admonishes us to do what we are going to do, **now**, while we are living, because we won't do **anything** in the grave, or anywhere else, after we are dead.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to _____, do it with thy _____; for there is no _____, nor _____, nor _____, nor _____, in the _____, whither thou goest." By the way, where do we go when we die? To the _____.

Strong's Concordance tells us that the word *device* means *contrivance* (something you make or invent) or *intelligence*. So, in the grave there is no **intelligence** (which would be needed to make or invent anything).

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20. What questions does David ask in Psalm 88:10,11? "Wilt thou show _____ to the _____? Shall the _____ arise and _____ thee? Selah. Shall thy lovingkindness be _____ in the _____? or thy faithfulness in destruction?"

21. Why does he ask these question and what does he say about it? Psalm 115:17,18 "The _____ praise _____ the Lord, neither _____ that go down into _____. **But** _____ [who are living] will _____ the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. _____ the Lord." Praise the Lord **now** while you are living, because you **cannot** praise Him when you are dead.

22. We learn the same thing from the testimony of Hezekiah recorded in Isaiah 38:18,19: "For the grave _____ praise thee, death can _____ celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit _____ hope for thy truth. The _____, the living, _____ shall _____ thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make _____ thy _____." While we are living, let us praise God and pass on the knowledge of His truth to others, for we cannot do any of these things after we die.

23. Psalm 6:5 tells us that "in _____ there is no _____ of thee: in the _____ who shall give thee _____?" We won't _____ God, or anything else, when we are dead.

24. Let us summarize what we know that the Bible teaches about the dead:

- a. The dead don't know A____ T____. Ecclesiastes 9:5.
- b. They have no R____. Ecclesiastes 9:5
- c. They have no M____. Ecclesiastes 9:5
- d. They have no L____. Ecclesiastes 9:6
- e. They have no H____. Ecclesiastes 9:6
- f. They have no E____. Ecclesiastes 9:6
- g. They don't have any P____ in any T____ that is done under the sun. Ecclesiastes 9:6
- h. They do no W____. Ecclesiastes 9:10
- i. They have no D____ (I____). Ecc.9:10
- j. The dead have no K____. Ecclesiastes 9:10
- k. They have no W____. Ecclesiastes 9:10
- l. The dead go to the G____. Ecclesiastes 9:10
- m. The dead have no R____. Psalm 6:5
- n. They can't T____ God. Psalm 6:5
- o. Their T____ perish. Psalm 146:4
- p. The dead cannot P____ the Lord. Psalm 115:17
- q. They cannot hope for God's T____. Isaiah 38:18