

Now in conclusion let me give you a few points as to the real nature of the soul that will further prove that the soul is the real person made of flesh.

1. Souls are born since Adam's day. "And the sons of Joseph, which were born in Egypt, were two souls..." Gen. 46:25-26.
2. Souls thirsted for water. Prov. 25:25.
3. Souls get hungry and are capable of being filled with food. Prov. 27:7; Deut. 12:20.
4. Souls have blood that can be shed by man. Jer. 2:34.
5. Souls die in battle by the sword. Josh. 11:11.
6. A soul converted from sin is saved from death, not eternal torment. James 5:20.

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Making Much Out Of Nothing

The Soul of Man—Is It Mortal or Immortal?

What is the soul? All of these questions the Bible answers plainly, so that we need be in doubt no longer. It is commonly believed that the soul of man is an immortal being inside of man's body; a sort of eternal part of God placed within man. We are told that this immortal soul is liberated from man at death and wings its flight to heaven or to hell according to conduct here on earth. Many honest people believe this doctrine, but that doesn't make it true.

The fact is that not one place in the Bible is man's soul spoken of as being immortal, but on the contrary it is everywhere spoken of as being subject to death and destruction. In only *one* place in the Bible do we find the word "immortal" and there it refers to Jehovah himself. "Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God..." 1 Tim. 1:17. Paul says of the Heavenly Father that He "*only* hath immortality." 1 Tim. 6:16. There are only four more places where the word "immortality" occurs in the Scriptures and each of these speaks of our *hope* of immortality at the resurrection. Read them: 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:53, 54; Rom. 2:7. In the last reference Paul says that the righteous, "by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life." Why seek for something we already have, my friend? "Oh," says one, "The

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righteous put on immortality at death, that is when the soul becomes immortal." What about Lazarus, Martha's brother? What became of that immortal soul when he was resurrected back to natural life? And where does the Bible promise immortality at death? The promise is that all the righteous will be "changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump..." 1 Cor. 15:51, 52. This is at the resurrection and not at death.

What is the Soul?

There are two texts that define the soul so that all can understand. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and MAN became a living SOUL." Gen. 2:7. Please notice three points here. *First:* God formed man out of the dust of the earth, but he had no life as yet. *Second:* God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life. This does not say that God placed within man an immortal soul, but simply breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. *Third:* As a result of breathing the breath of life into man's nostrils, the man became a living soul. The man himself then was the soul and not the breath or life put within his being. If the life given him made him a living soul, the taking away of that life would leave a dead soul. That is exactly what the Scriptures teach. There is another text from the writings of Paul that confirms the text in Genesis. "The first man Adam was made a living soul." 1 Cor. 15:45. With these two texts positively stating that the man made of the dust is a living soul before us, we shall now proceed to answer that old question—

Does the Soul Die?

When a man dies what does God take away

from him? "Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust." Ps. 104:29. "His breath goeth forth... in that very day his thoughts perish." Ps. 146:4. Please notice that God takes away the breath of life from man, this living soul, and they return to the dust. Their thoughts also perish. Without thoughts there could be no consciousness, joy or sorrow. They perish at death, therefore they are part of this fleshly man and can operate only so long as life remains in this man. In speaking of the smiting of the Egyptians, David said, "He spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to pestilences." Ps. 78:50. According to David the soul is subject to death, else those Egyptians' souls could not have died. Again David said, "For thou hast delivered my soul from death." Ps. 116:8.

God says, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Ezek. 18:4. How can the soul die if it is immortal? God said it would die, and I believe His word. Souls can die for we read in Ezek. 22:25-27, "After princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, ... and to destroy souls..." "And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley... to stay the souls that should not die... by your lying to my people that hear your lies." Ezek. 13:19.

Christ's soul was in hell (the grave) but was resurrected. Acts 2:31. This had to be, for he paid the penalty for sin. That penalty is death of the soul. Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 6:23. He tasted death for every man. Heb. 2:9. If his soul didn't die, then he never paid the penalty for sins. His blood was shed on the cross for you and for me. The blood is the life of mortal flesh and not immortal souls.