

## **Doctrine of the Nature of Man**

The theological debate over the nature of man centers on whether man is made up of one, two, or three parts: monism, dichotomy, trichotomy. The monists contend that man is made up of only one part. They say that what we call the soul/spirit is simply a function of the body and that there is no existence outside of the body. This view is generally held by liberal theologians, cult leaders, and materialists who are agnostic or atheistic. The other two views of dichotomy and trichotomy are held and debated by traditional Christians.

The man argument among believers concerns whether or man consists of body and soul or body soul and spirit. The division between the soul and spirit stems from the fact that the Scripture seems to speak of the soul and spirit as interchangeable and synonymous terms in some passages such as John 12:27, John 13:21; Luke 1:46-47; Hebrews 12:23 and 1 Peter 3:19 compared with Revelation 6:9 and Revelation 20:4, while other passages seems to distinguish the soul and spirit as per 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12.

### **Soul and Spirit are Used Interchangeable**

- John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.
- John 13:21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.
- Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
- 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
- Revelation 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
- Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

## **Soul and Spirit are Distinguished**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 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.
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.