

It should be carefully noted that the **body alone** is not the total "self" or "soul". Nor is the "spirit" alone the total "self" or "soul". The "soul", or "self" exists only when the body and the "spirit" are united!

This "living soul" or "self" is the human organism which **does** have the power of consciousness, intelligence, memory, emotions, sensations and will, but **only so long as the breath and the body remain united**. At death the "soul" or "self", with all its wonderful powers simply ceases, for the time being, to exist. The "soul" does not "go" anywhere at death, it simply lapses into non-being, as a conscious entity.

Eccles. 9 : 5, 6: "The dead know not anything."

Eccles. 9 : 10: "No work, device, or knowledge in the grave."

Ps. 6 : 5: "No remembrance of God in death."

Ps. 115 : 17: "The dead do not praise God."

Job 14 : 21: The sons of the dead man come to honour him, and he knows it not.

Acts 2 : 29, 34: David, though he had been dead for a thousand years, had "not ascended into the heavens".

Accordingly, the complete lapsing of consciousness and personality at death is called "the sleep of death" (Ps. 13 : 3). Over fifty times in the Bible, death is compared to a "sleep", because sleep is only a temporary condition, which carries with it the promise of a certain awakening. This is by far the simplest, most positive, most comforting way to think of death.

6.—THE SIXTH KEY — WHEN DEATH'S POWER WILL BE BROKEN

Thank God, the Bible's teaching concerning the nature and destiny of man does not end with the temporary lapse of the "soul" or personality at death! God has the power, whenever He pleases, to repeat the miracle of Gen. 2 : 7; to re-unite the body and the spirit, and thus restore a dead man as a conscious "self", or "living soul". This is what the Bible calls "the resurrection of the dead".

I Cor. 15 : 21, 22: "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Job 14 : 12-15: Job expected to "wait" in the grave for his "change", when God should "call", and "the heavens should be no more".

Job 19 : 26: "Though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

John 5 : 28, 29: "All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and come forth."

I Cor. 15 : 51-55: "The dead shall be raised incorruptible."

I Thess. 4 : 16-18: The Lord descends, the dead in Christ rise.

I Cor. 15 : 26: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

Rev. 21 : 4: "No more death, sorrow nor crying."

Luke 20 : 36: "Neither can they die any more."

7.—THE SEVENTH KEY — WHAT DEATH MEANS FOR THE CHRISTIAN

For the Christian, death is compared to:

- (a) "A sleep" (Acts 7 : 60). A thousand years in the grave will seem like a moment of silence and darkness.
- (b) A "shadow" (Ps. 23 : 4). A shadow is powerless to harm anyone.
- (c) An enemy with its "sting" plucked out (I Cor. 15 : 55). Therefore, the Christian does not fear death, as if it were an all-powerful or eternal foe.

Conclusion Rom. 8 : 38, 39: Death, even in its most dreadful form, cannot pluck us out of the hand of Christ.

With this confidence, we, like Paul, may look into the face of death without fear (II Tim. 4 : 6-8).