

## What Happens to Your Soul When You Die?

- **Ezekiel 18:4**                    Context: God, speaking through the prophet Ezekiel, declares: “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”  
The point: The soul does not live on, but is capable of dying.
- **1 Timothy 6:15, 16**            Context: Paul describes the immortal nature of God, “dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; Whom no man hath seen, nor can see.”  
The point: Only Deity is truly immortal; this is impossible for humankind to achieve unaided.
- **1 Corinthians 15:51–54**        Context: Paul teaches that Christ bestows immortality upon the faithful dead whom He resurrects from their graves at His Second Coming.  
The point: The beginning point of human immortality is the resurrection of the righteous dead at Christ’s Second Coming.
- **Genesis 2:7**                    Context: Moses teaches that “the Lord God formed man [created Adam] of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”  
The point: The soul comes about only as the result of God uniting the physical body with the breath of life. The divine formula for life:  
body (dust) + breath (spirit) = soul (life)  
Understood in this light, one does not *have* a soul but instead *is* a soul (person, being).
- **Job 27:3**                        Context: Job teaches that the terms “breath” and “spirit” [“spirit of God”] are interchangeable, since both are in the human’s nostrils.  
The point: The spirit is nothing more than our God-given breath, not some bodiless state of existence, supernatural being, or ghost. It would thus be impossible for the living to communicate with so-called “spirits” of the dead.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:7**                Context: Solomon teaches that death consists of the body returning to the dust of the ground and the spirit returning to God Who gave it.  
The point: The divine formula for death:  
body (dust) - breath (spirit) = death (no soul)  
is the reverse process to that illustrated in Genesis 2:7, above. The soul simply ceases to exist when there is no longer a living being. There is nothing, therefore, with which we who are living can communicate.
- **John 6:39**                        Context: Jesus teaches that He will “lose nothing, but [will] raise it up again at the last day.”  
The point: Nothing (body, breath [spirit], or soul) is raised up until Christ resurrects His saints (thus reuniting the three components of life) at His Second Coming.

To answer the question, What happens to your soul when you die? you must first understand that no part of your body lives on at death. Your soul (i.e., your personhood or being) simply ceases to exist when the body rests lifeless, without the breath (spirit) of life to animate it in the grave. At Christ’s Second Coming, however, all components are reunited, not merely as they once were, but with the glorious crowning touch of immortality. Erroneous, man-made, un-Biblical teachings are both unsafe and unsatisfying, while the Bible—the Word of God—provides the beautiful, unvarnished truth on this intriguing topic.—Jerry A. Stevens, October 5, 2005