

A Spiritualism and death:

❖ An immortal soul.

- The Bible teaches that we are made up of three “parts”: “spirit, soul, and body” (1Thes. 5:23). It also teaches that these parts are interdependent. Genesis 2:7 teaches us that God creates a body, infuses it with life (spirit), and becomes a living being (“being,” in Hebrew, is *nefesh* = “soul”).
- When the breath of life leaves us, we cease to exist. No part of our being has conscious existence after death. The body dies, the spirit (the life force) returns to its Giver, and the soul, the product of the union of body and spirit, ceases to exist (Eccl. 12:1-7; Ezek. 18:20; Job 7 :7-9).
- Since sin entered our world, Satan has used people who have sought to communicate with the dead and gain from them special knowledge of the present or the future.
- The Bible teaches that “anyone who practices these customs will become abominable to the LORD” (Deut. 18:10-12 NIV). The penalty for this crime was death (Lev. 20:27).

❖ Death in the Old Testament.

- Although no one says at a funeral “our relative is traveling directly to hell,” many confessions teach that, upon death, the “good” ascend directly to Heaven to be with Jesus, and the “bad” are punished or simply wander. But what does the Bible teach about this?
 - (1) Can we praise God after dying? Psalm 115:17
 - (2) Do those who die know what happens to their family or friends? Job 14:21
 - (3) Can the dead interact with the living? Ecclesiastes 9:6
 - (4) Can we continue thinking after dying? Ecclesiastes 9:5
 - (5) Will we be able to carry out any type of activity after death? Ecclesiastes 9:10
- The Old Testament teaches that death is a dream. Sleep to wake up only when God calls us back to life (1 Kings 2:10; 14:20; Dan. 12:13).

❖ Death in the New Testament.

- The New Testament teaches, like the Old, that death is a dream from which only Jesus can awaken us (John 11:11-14; John 5:28-29).
- When writing to the Thessalonians, Paul spoke to them about “those who sleep,” that is, those who had already died, and told them that they would be resurrected to go with Jesus at his Second Coming (1Thes. 4:13-18). If Paul had believed that believers go directly to Jesus when they die, he would have told them that instead of what he told them.
- When speaking of the dead, Paul says that they will be made alive “at his coming,” and not before (1Co. 15:22-24). He also tells us that “not all of us will sleep.” The living will be transformed in a moment, but the dead will rise already transformed (1Co. 15:51-52).
- The resurrection is key to being with Jesus. Without resurrection, there is no salvation (1Co. 15:13-18). It will be in the resurrection when we will receive our inheritance, and we must therefore wait for that moment (1P. 1:3-5).

B Spiritualism in the last days:

❖ Signs and wonders.

- Spiritualism is a movement led directly by Satan, and its foundation is the immortality of the soul. Its followers believe they can communicate with the dead, and claim to receive supernatural powers from them.
- The time will come when God will allow them to perform irrefutable miracles that will amaze those who behold them (Mk. 13:22; 2Thes. 2:9; Rev. 7:1; 13:13-14).
- Only security in what we know of God's Word, and complete trust in Jesus, will allow us to resist the last temptations of the enemy (Is. 8:20; Eph. 6:13).

❖ The objective of spiritualism.

- Satan's intention is to win the war against God, overthrow His government, and occupy His throne (Isa. 14:13-14). To do this, he will use any strategy to win over everyone, starting with the political powers that govern us (Rev. 16:12-14).
- “The act that will crown the great drama of deception will be that Satan himself will pretend to be Christ” (EGW “The Great Controversy”, p. 681).
- But it will be at that moment when Jesus will put an end to the story (Rev. 16:15). Satan is a defeated enemy. Defeated by Christ, and defeated by those who cling to His blood (1Jn. 2:14; 4:3-4; Rev. 3:21; 5:5; 12:11).