

Body – Soul – Spirit

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This Verse Includes All Three Words:

^{ESV} **1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole **spirit** [πνεῦμα] and **soul** [ψυχή] and **body** [σῶμα] be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Basic Definitions:

- **Body** – Physical
- **Soul** – Self or Me
- **Spirit** – Relation to God (alive or dead)

Basic Understandings:

- **Life on Earth** – A person's soul and spirit are in a person's body.
- **At Death** – Separation occurs:
 - Body – All go to the grave.
 - Soul and Spirit:
 - Repentant – to heaven
 - Unrepentant – to hell
- **Return of Christ:**
 - All dead bodies will be raised.
 - All people will be back together – body, soul, and spirit.
 - Final Judgment:
 - Repentant – with God forever!
 - Unrepentant – separated from God and His blessings forever!

Some Details (Bible Works, Friberg – with edits):

σῶμα – BODY (physical part)

(1) literally; (a) as the *living body* of a human being or animal (**JA 3:3** “If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole **bodies** as well”); (b) as the *dead body* of a human being or animal *corpse* (**MK 15:43** Joseph of Arimathea... went to Pilate and asked for the **body** of Jesus”).

(2) figuratively; (a) as *substance* or *reality* in contrast to shadow (**CO 2:17** These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ”); (b) as a group of people united by a mystical union *body*, used of the church as the *body* of which Christ is the head (**RO 12:5** “so we, though many, are one **body** in Christ”).

ψυχή – SOUL, life (physical life itself/me)

(1) The [original] existence of all living creatures, including human beings *life-principle, physical life, breath* (**AC 20:10** “Do not be alarmed, for his **life** is in him”).

(2) Earthly existence in contrast to supernatural existence *life, natural life, one's life on earth* (**MT 6:25** “do not be anxious about your **life**, what you will eat or what you will drink”)

(3) The nonmaterial inner life of human beings for which the body serves as a dwelling place *soul, inner self* (**MT 11:29** “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me... and you shall find rest for your **souls**”; **MT 20:28** “the Son of Man came... to give his **life** as a ransom for many”); often with the focus on various aspects of feeling, thinking, choosing in which the psychological being is involved; *mind, purpose* (**PH 1:27** “standing firm in one **spirit**” (ψυχή); *heart* (**MK 14:34** “My **soul** is deeply grieved to the point of death”); *desire* (**LU 10:27** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your **soul**”))...

πνεῦμα – SPIRIT (spiritual part/content of faith)

(1) Derived from πνέω (blow), of the movement of air.

(2) A condition and agent of life *breath (of life)*, (possibly **MT 27:50** in the sense “he dismissed his **spirit**”; **JA 2:26**)

(3) The immaterial part of the human personality, spirit in contrast to the outward and visible aspects of σὰρξ (*flesh*) and σῶμα (*body*) (**2C 7:1** “let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and **spirit**” – body *outward* and spirit *inward*).

(4) The seat of the inner spiritual life of man, the capacity to know God, spirit (**AC 18:25** “being fervent [passionate] in **spirit**, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus”; **RO 8:16b** “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our **spirit** that we are children of God”).