

SPIRIT

The word “spirit” has taken on a multitude of meanings down through the annals of history. The most common church meaning is that of a disembodied invisible being possessing consciousness and intelligence. But neither the prophets of the Old Testament, nor the apostles of the New Testament viewed the word “spirit” in that manner. We shall examine that word in light of the ancient Hebraic and Greek Biblical connotations. However lets first get an understanding of how the Kybalion defines “spirit”, before we proceed with the distinctness given to that word by the Scriptures. The Kybalion is the creed of ancient Egypt from whence all occult religions originate.

The Kybalion “Spirit” is immortal mind which includes everything that exists.
Quotes from *The Kybalion Hermetic Philosophy*, Yogi Publication Society, 1908, Chicago, Ill.

From page 65 – The Kybalion, HP (capitalization appears as in the book text)

The Universe is Mental--held in the Mind of THE ALL.

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"THE ALL" is Infinite Living Mind--the Illumined call it SPIRIT!

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The Hermetic Teachings are to the effect that THE ALL is Imminent in, "remaining within; inherent; abiding within", its Universe, and in every part, particle, unit, or combination, within the Universe.

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This Involuntary stage of Creation is sometimes called the "Outpouring" of the Divine Energy, just as the Evolutionary state is called the "Indrawing." The extreme pole of the Creative process is considered to be the furthest removed from THE ALL, while the beginning of the Evolutionary stage is regarded as the beginning of the return swing of the pendulum of Rhythm, a "coming home" idea being held in all of the Hermetic Teachings.

(note: thus the idea that we are immortals who return home to the heavens is a teaching born in the occult Kybalion, although the world's religions have adapted their different slants on it. – KL)

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But Mystery of Mysteries--the Spirit (living mind) of each soul is not annihilated, but is infinitely expanded--the Created and the Creator are merged. Such is the report of the Illumined!

(note: to the contrary, the Bible says “the soul that sinneth, it shall die” – Ezk.18:4,20. *Soul* means the person himself (i.e. a life) who is not immortal but can die. God's Word teaches that upon death the thought process of the mind stops functioning. Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10 tells us “the dead know not any thing” “There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest.”

“Spirit” in the Scriptures

The word “spirit” in the Bible has no relevance to the usage of that word in the imaginative philosophy of the Kybalion or its many religions that are actually “spin offs” of the Hermetic philosophy found within them. (This includes Judaeo-Christianity which is not the same as Bible Christianity) From a Scriptural perspective as first written in the Hebrew and Greek languages, *spirit* primarily means “a current of air, breeze, wind” or “a person’s disposition”. The original texts of the Scriptures in the Hebrew and Greek never considered “spirit” as being races of ghost-like beings such as supposed angelic or demon races, or disembodied ghosts of deceased people, although the Kybalion influence into some Bible translations may have led people to believe that mystic teaching. Nor did the Hebrew and Greek Scripture writings ever consider “spirit” as some type of voodoo curse or witchcraft spell force that can permeate the atmosphere to make people ill or stressed. The Word of God clearly teaches that the only one who controls circumstances and events with supernatural influences beyond the mortal ability of man is Yahweh God Almighty Himself. (Ps. 62:11; 136:4)

In which ever Bible reference lexicon or dictionary one chooses to study when looking up the Biblical meaning of “spirit” the primary definitions will always first be “current of air, breeze, wind, etc.”, with following meanings showing “spirit” to be the disposition that motivates (moves) a person to act in a particular manner. (verses will be cited shortly herein). With respect to God’s creation of man, God breathed life into him after He first formed man from the dust of the ground. The Genesis account tells us that Adam was made from the ground and was complete in every way, except for the lack of life energy to make Adam become alive. Adam was not taken from some “heavenly realm” and transported to Earth. Nor was Adam a shell of a body into which God supposedly put the “real Adam, a spirit being from heaven” into the shell body. Such ideas are completely foreign to the Genesis Hebraic account concerning God’s creation of man. Only in the later Greek language did the word spirit come to have a semi-connection with the superstitious view of “angels; demons; devils”. (the discussion about those misunderstood words will be left for another study). This pagan verbal connection was due to the heathenish Greek influence that engulfed the middle east after Alexander the Great conquered the area (circa 356 – 323 BC). The Greek philosopher Plato (428 – 348 BC) made popular the idea that the “soul” was immortal. Plato was taught this by Socrates, who learned it from the Egyptians, who themselves obtained it from the Isis religion of the Nachash deceiver who was the tempter of Eve.

Strong’s Concordance has the word spirit listed at H7307 (ruach), and at G4151 (pneuma). An examination of the Scriptures tell us that ruach is life force energy that God breathed as a wind into man to make man alive. Thus, the life force energy is *spirit*

according to Hebraic usage of the word. God created the total man from the ground as a complete person, and then blew (breathed) life into him (Gen.2:7). The Bible teaches no such doctrine as man being compartmentalized into disassociated sections of body and soul. Man is wholistic; a singular being formed from Earth's elements by The Creator. The breath of God started Adam man to begin breathing and to become a living soul. "And Yahweh formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen.2:7) That is, man became alive.

"Soul" is the Hebrew word *Nephesh* which means "a breathing creature". Man does not have a soul (as in the idea of an inner immortal ghost-type entity). Man is a soul, a created living person made by the Creator. If the spirit (life force energy) is taken away from man, man dies and returns to the dust from whence he was created. The soul, that is the man himself, dies. When Adam sinned we see these words from His Creator:

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

The words of God could not be more clear. Adam wasn't taken from Heaven and put into the Earth. He was taken from the Earth, and returns there upon his death to decompose back into dust. God said that Adam was dust – "for dust thou art" – and never said that Adam was a supposed "spirit being" from Heaven, i.e "an immortal soul". Unless there would be divine intervention that would result in God gathering up the man's dust and putting life spirit energy back into it again, man would be gone and cease to exist forever. Thank God for His plan and promise to resurrect His chosen family from the death of the grave at the Resurrection unto life eternal, by everything that Jesus our Savior King has done, does, and shall do.

We may draw a parallel to things we build, then energize to make them functional and operational. A sailboat can be constructed, but without wind it can't move. When wind is applied to the sails the boat can then move across the water. Withdraw the wind, and the sailboat ceases to function. Sitting down to use a computer does not make the computer work. By turning on the power button and putting power into the machine, your computer "comes alive" and can do many amazing things. Shut off the power and the computer is "dead" to act. A flashlight can remain dormant to its use when no power is switched on. But push the power switch, the flashlight becomes energized, and begins to shine for its purpose. Switch the power off, and it is "lights out". No working flashlight. The same with us. When God removes our life energy, it's "lights out" for us. Man becomes alive when *spirit* enters into him. Remove the *spirit* (power of life), and man stops being functional (he dies). Spirit is not an invisible conscious being. Spirit is something that God breathes into you to make you become alive. Spirit is not your mind (a Kybalion false belief). When spirit is put into a person he then starts to breathe and to

think, becoming a soul (a nephesh – a living creature) with a functional mind with mental capability. When God removes spirit from a person, the person no longer has the ability to think and his awareness ceases to exist. Concerning life and death, the Psalmist states, “Praise ye Yahweh, Praise Yahweh, O my soul (total living existence). *While I live* will I praise Yahweh: I will sing praises unto my God *while I have any being* -- his (man’s) breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; *in that very day his thoughts perish.*” (Psalm 146:1-4) “The dead know not any thing” (Ecc. 9:5)

It is important to note that the word “breath” in the above verse is the Hebrew word ruach (spirit, Strong’s #7307) and it is not the man himself. When the breath/spirit is taken from man by God, the man himself dies and returns to the earth, and has no more conscious existence. His thoughts perish because man perishes at death.

The idea that a soul is immortal and that it cannot die or be destroyed is heathen occult doctrine. The Scriptures tell us in truth that a soul can indeed be destroyed (killed). Joshua was embattled against the King of Hazor and that land’s inhabitants. We read in Joshua 11:11 that Joshua’s army “smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them: there was not any left to breathe.” In other words, Joshua’s army killed the living people (the souls, nephesh) with the edge of the sword. The apostle Peter, in referring to Noah’s family saved in the Flood, tells us “eight souls were saved by water.” (I Pet. 3:19) Peter relays the account as it happened --- eight living people (souls) were saved in that flood. We could say that eight lives were saved.

Furthermore, there are many other times in the Bible where the Hebrew word ruach (spirit) is translated *breath*, revealing that the authors of the Scriptures attested to the fact that “spirit” (life energy force) is breathed (as a puff of wind) into people by God to make them alive. Infants in the womb actually partake in ‘fetal breathing’ as oxygen rich fluid from mama’s breath enters the unborn child’s developing lungs. A person begins to breathe (however early undetected in the womb) and becomes alive because God breathes life into the person. And that happens when they are created in the ‘here and now’ by the Creator. One example of many verses where spirit/ruach is *breath* is seen in the account of the resurrection of the dead in the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37 ---

“Thus saith Yahweh God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath (ruach/spirit) to enter into you, and ye shall live; And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath (ruach/spirit) in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am Yahweh.” “And ye shall know that I am Yahweh, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.” (Ezek.37:5,6,13)

These mentioned (above) in Ezekiel are not alive in Heaven and inserted into “shell bodies”. They are dead in the grave. Yahweh declares that when He puts breath/spirit into them, then they shall live. Ruach/spirit/breath gives life to a person so he/she can move about as a live created being. The New Testament Greek word for spirit is pneuma referenced at Strong’s # G4151. It likewise means “current of air, breath, breeze”. We get our English word pneumatic from this Greek word. Pneumatic tools are those that work by air power such as an air powered wrench, a jack-hammer, or an air pump. When air goes in, the tool works. Remove the air, the tool doesn’t work, but is “dead”.

An interesting additional lexicon definition for the Greek word pneuma (spirit) is *disposition*. But why *disposition*? Both the New Testament Greek writings and the Old Testament Greek manuscripts of the Bible that were translated from Hebrew into Greek, use the word pneuma/spirit to depict a *disposition*. And here we see the refined accuracy of God’s Word in applying the meaning of “movement” in a psychological manner. We know that *spirit/breath* gives a person the physical living ability to “move about” in his environment. But psychologically, *spirit/pneuma* also refers to an individual’s personality trait. We speak of “what motivates that person?”; or, “what moves you?”; or, “what makes him tick?”; or, “what drives them to do that?”, etc. The answer is the *disposition/spirit* of a person, likened to the pneuma (unseen wind force). The *disposition/spirit* is not the person himself. It is something that makes a person act in certain ways. It is a person’s “nature and temperament”. We often refer to an individual as “she has such a sweet spirit about her”, or, “that fellow is a really nasty spirit”, without any trouble knowing that we are talking about how the person behaves or acts, psychologically speaking. A helpful Christian is said to have “a giving spirit”, a disposition that moves him to give aid and comfort to others. Even animals may have a “tame spirit” or a “vicious spirit”. This would refer to a beast’s temperament which causes it to act in a certain way.

The Scriptures are quite explicit in using the word “spirit” in this manner. Some examples are: A jealous spirit: Num.5:14; A sorrowful spirit: I Sam.1:15; A contrite spirit: Ps. 34:18; A hasty spirit: Prov.14:29; A humble spirit: Prov.29:23; A grieved spirit: Isa.54:6; A troubled spirit: Dan.2:1,3; A new spirit: Rom.7:6; An unrestful spirit: 2 Cor. 2:13; A meek spirit: Gal.6:1; A lustful spirit: James 4:5; etc. --- None of these “spirits” are so called invisible ghost entities that possess people. On the contrary, these spirits are motivating emotional attributes (personality types) that “move” a person to behave in some manner or another, as if an invisible “wind” (ruach, pneuma) propels them to do so. Thus the Scriptures tell us that the word “spirit” can mean the life force that animates a creature of God; or a disposition that moves an individual to exhibit a specific conduct. The Holy Spirit of God is a deeper subject than space allows here, but basically the Holy Spirit is the moving presence of God Almighty within His creation. This divine presence, as well, is likened to the wind. (Acts 2:1-4; John 3:8). 5

The Kybalion, which is the root of all heathen and occult religions, proposes a false concept that we are all of an “eternal living mind”, that we always existed within this eternal mind, and as being part of this eternal living mind we don’t ever perish, but just move up the spiritual evolutionary scale to “vibrate” as a higher being. Death is only an “apparent death” to the Kybalion philosopher, and is not any type of perishing from existence. But the Word of God is clear. Because of our sins, we die (perish). Only by Christ coming to resurrect His family of believers from the grave can we live again, and live forever. Jesus the Christ paid an enormous price with His crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection to pay for the eternal life of His chosen followers.

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our master.” (Rom. 6:23)

When the spirit (enabled breathing ability force) is removed from a person or an animal, he/she/it dies --- perishes and returns to the ground to decay. Animals do not have the same intelligence as Adamic man, but they do have the same spirit (ruach) of physical creation, giving them the power to breathe and live.

“For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them; as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath (spirit/ruach, Strong’s #H7307); so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.” (Ecc.3:19,20)

Sinful man does not want to accept how bad a thing sin is. For a person to live forever, he would have to be perfect. Sin in us proves that we are not perfect. Therefore it is not possible for us (imperfect beings) to have perfect endless life. Reality hits home. Some day we must perish – die – stop existing. Nothing but divine intervention can prevent this actuality. Even the kindest, most thoughtful, and exceedingly helpful person who existed can’t possess perfect endless life in and by himself, because even that individual has sinned in some manner or another. (Rom.3:23) This disqualifies him as being an infinitely alive and perfectly immortal entity. Perish he will.

The only way out of this predicament is for God to take the initiative to give eternal life to those whom He chooses by a resurrection from the dead at some future time. Naturally they would first have to be justified from their sins. That justification is in the canceling of our sins by someone able to pay for our mistakes since we can’t pay for them. That payment was completed by the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God, Yahshua (English-Jesus) The Christ whose blood was and is infinitely precious in price:

“For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 6

but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (I Peter 1:18,19) verse 22 says that our “souls” are purified by Christ’s payment. It means that our very lives are made holy and pure in the sense of divine justice, and God will raise us from *the dead*.

“Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?” (Acts 26:8)

Not only does the teaching which claims we are immortal souls deny the horrendous effect of sin (death, our perishing), but it also trivializes and denies the only remedy against death: the promised resurrection of Jesus’ believers. If deceased people are “alive in heaven”, they would have no need to be raised from the dead by resurrection. If we are already alive eternally, we don’t need to be made alive. The concept is both contradictory and non-scriptural.

The Scriptures liken death to a “sleep” since the person is no longer active in the world. But the sleep of death is a state of non existence and is only referred to as a “sleep” because Christ Himself *now lives for us* while we are dead in the grave. It is the promise of resurrection which is alive for us all, as Jesus holds that promise (2 Cor.1:20). Thus, we are prophetically “alive in Christ” unto a future miracle --- His calling us forth from the grave. (John 5:28) It is in this manner that death may be spoken of euphemistically as “sleep” (unawareness).

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them which slept.” (1 Cor.15:20)

“... for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be (Job 7:21)

“ Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep ... howbeit Jesus spake of his death..” (John 11:11,13)

Clearly, the prophets and apostles realized that the sleep of death without a future resurrection would be a state of being perished, and without life forever:

Paul states: “For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised ... then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.” (1 Cor.15:16 - 18)

Paul furthermore confirmed his hope of resurrection from death through faith in Christ: “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection ... if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.” (Philippians 3:10,11)

Paul knew and taught that the only way to eternal life after death was through the resurrection of Christ and of those who are resurrected from the state of death at Christ's coming.

The hope of this truth that Paul knew was declared by the prophet Isaiah and King Hezekiah as well, in that the dead have no consciousness, don't go to heaven but go to the grave, and that the dead do not praise God in heaven with harps:

“For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee; they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee as I do this day..” (Isaiah 38:18,19)

The apostle Peter, when speaking on the day of Pentecost, explained: “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day.” (Acts 2:29) Then Peter told us something more about David: “For David is not ascended into the heavens ...” (Acts 2:34) Peter stated this after Christ was raised from the dead, and ascended on high. King David was still in the grave where he (and all the faithful) await resurrection at the day of the return of our King of Kings. The dead “sleep” in the ground where they do not and cannot experience any passage of time. It matters not if someone has died five years ago or five hundred years ago. In God's wisdom and justice, everyone's day of death, *from their perspective*, is also the day of their resurrection unto the judgment seat of Christ.

Moses spoke with God Almighty on the mount and received many a communication directly from Him. When it was time for Moses to die God did not tell Moses “You are coming to heaven”, “I'm bringing you home here as a spirit being”, or anything of the sort. Instead, the Scriptures reveal: “And Yahweh God said to Moses, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers.” (Deut.31:16). God told Daniel the same thing: “But go thy way till the end be; for thou shalt rest (sleep in the grave), and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.” (Dan.12:13) Daniel would not be standing, walking, or moving about upright anywhere until the appointed time which is at the end of the days *and not before*. Until then Daniel would be “resting” in the grave. He would be dead. David said: “Consider and hear me, O Yahweh my God; lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.”

The death sleep is not some kind of sleep where a person remains alive. Death in the Scriptures is the total reality that it (death) is the opposite of life and the absence of life because the ruach/pneuma (spirit breath of life) has been removed from the person. A person is either alive or dead. Not both simultaneously.

“Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few.” (Deut.33:6)

“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of Yahweh.” (Psalm 118:17)

“And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we shall arise and go; that we may live and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones.” (Gen.43:8)

“Cut ye not off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites; but thus do unto them, that they may live, and not die, when they approach unto the most holy things.” (Num. 4:18,19)

“But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.” (Ezk. 18:21)

Yes, the words of the prophets and apostles, written by inspiration of God, repeatedly inform us that life and death *are opposites*, not a fabled “dead but alive” mix of Kybalion superstition foisted upon the churches by occultists aiming to control the masses by fear of where one’s so-called soul/spirit is going after death. The occult priesthood has gotten away with this age long scam because the clergy have failed to teach their congregations what the meaning of the words soul and spirit are as first written by the prophets and apostles in the Hebrew and Greek text.

Search as we may we will not find one single Bible verse that says “when a Christian dies he goes to heaven to live.” If this event would indeed happen it would be such a monumental change of our very being, and of such magnanimous occurrence, that God’s Word certainly would let us know about it. This fabrication of occult mysticism is simply missing from the Holy Scriptures. But we *will* find it in the Kybalion philosophy and all heathen religions of the world, yet it is not in our Christian Bible. The Kybalion philosophy made its way into Greek paganism, with the Judean area at the time of Christ and the apostles then being inundated with the belief of the immortal soul/spirit doctrine. Paul warned the first century Christians to stay clear of the pagan philosophy of that time: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Col.2:8)

Briefly summarizing the Scriptural position about “souls and spirits” we have: A soul is *nephesh* in the Hebrew, which is a living created being. “Spirit” is *ruach* (Hebrew) or *pneuma* (Greek) and is “life energy to enable breathing as a current of air”; or “a disposition that moves a person’s behavior”. When a person dies he turns back to dust from whence he was taken. Our hope is in the resurrection of Christ from the dead which resurrection He also gives to His faithful called out followers at the end of this age. Praise be to Yahweh Almighty who has gifted to us eternal life in Jesus Christ!