

# THE BIBLE WORD SERIES

*A Brief Study of those Important Words found in the Bible that we need to understand, not just skip over.*

## THE FLESH

The **Hebrew** word for "flesh" = 1) The human body 2) Family relationship 3) Humanity

The **Greek** word for "flesh" = 1) Skin (human body) 2) Human nature 3) Sin nature

So, it looks like "flesh" means four things in the Bible:

- The **family relationship**
- The **human body**
- Humanity in general**
- The human (**sin**) nature

### The Family Relationship

Genesis 29:14

And Laban said to Jacob, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh".

Genesis 37:27

Judah said, "Come and let us sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh".

1. Does being related to someone stop us from doing evil to them?  Yes  No  
*Here we see Laban lying to Jacob, deceiving Jacob, and cheating him.*
2. Does being related to someone stop our jealousy toward him?  Yes  No  
*Joseph's brothers hated him because he was the father's favorite.*
3. Does being related to someone guarantee our loyalty to him?  Yes  No  
*The brothers actually sold him like a slave, took money for him, & let strangers take him.*

Obviously, there is something inside our family relationships that causes evil deeds.

### Humanity in General

Genesis 6:11-12

The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

Isaiah 66:16

For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD will be many.

Isaiah 66:23

The LORD said, "And it shall come to pass from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me".

Ezekiel 20:48

God said, "All flesh will see that I, the LORD, have kindled it (judgment); it cannot be stopped".

Luke 3:6

John the Baptizer said, "As Isaiah said - all flesh will see the salvation of God".

4. Mentioning "earth" 3 times probably means all of humanity.  Yes  No
5. Even though man is sinful & totally rebellious, God will deal with it. How?
  - a. Gen. 6 "God \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_."
  - b. Is. 66 "The Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_."
  - c. Is. 66 "All flesh will come \_\_\_\_\_ before Me".
  - d. Eze. 20 "All unbelieving flesh will be \_\_\_\_\_."
  - e. Lk. 3 "All flesh will now realize the \_\_\_\_\_ that God had planned."

Obviously, there is something inside **humanity** that causes evil deeds & rebellion.

## The Human Body

6. Let's look at some basics about the human body. Match verse & statement.
- a. Proverbs 5:11            \_\_\_ The body has flesh, skin, and bones.
  - b. Job 34:15                \_\_\_ Dead bodies will go back to the dust.
  - c. Isaiah 40:6              \_\_\_ Living things are either male or female.
  - d. Ecclesiastes 12:12      \_\_\_ Our human can only be in one place at a time.
  - e. Genesis 6:19             \_\_\_ Physical bodies will die.
  - f. Leviticus 17:11         \_\_\_ That born from flesh (mom) is also flesh (baby).
  - g. Lamentations 3:4        \_\_\_ The physical body does get tired (weary).
  - h. John 3:6                 \_\_\_ The pumping blood keeps the body alive.
  - i. Acts 2:30                 \_\_\_ Physical life (body) is brief like field grass.
  - j. Colossians 2:5            \_\_\_ Our sexual human body reproduces flesh.

Obviously, there is something inside the **human body** that causes evil deeds & rebellion.

- 7. The flesh & skin & bones are a skeleton & a frame. It can't decide anything.    \_Y \_N
- 8. The human mind is grey flesh organ that holds only what is put in it.            \_Y \_N
- 9. A body part made of flesh like a hand cannot decide to slap somebody.        \_Y \_N
- 10. A sexual body part cannot look for a person & then rape them.                    \_Y \_N

**There must be more living in the human body than just skin & bones. These same skin & bones only follow orders. WHOSE ORDERS DO THEY FOLLOW?**

## THE HUMAN (SIN) NATURE

*I have SAD news for you. YOU NEVER GET RID OF THE SIN NATURE IN THIS LIFE. I gave GOOD news too. When we become a believer, WE GET A NEW NATURE. So yes, we will live the rest of our earthly life with two natures.*

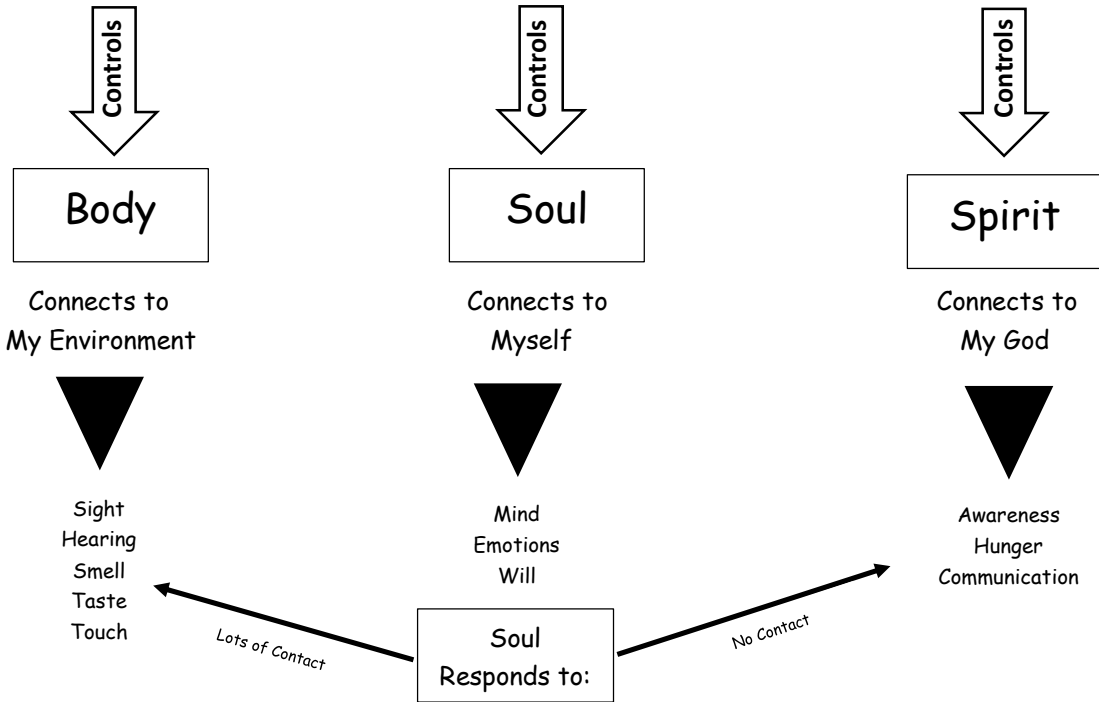
**Check out Ephesians 2:1-18.**

MY FORMER LIFE (CURRENT STRUGGLES)		MY BELIEVER LIFE (POTENTIAL VICTORIES)	
1	We were dead in _____.	1	Christ made us _____.
2	We walked in the course of this _____.	5	Christ made us alive with Him.
2	We walked with the _____ of evil.	6	He _____ us up together out of death.
2	We walked like the sons of _____.	6	He sat us together in _____ with Him.
3	We walked in the _____ of the flesh.	8	For by _____ you have been saved.
3	We wanted the _____ of flesh & mind.	8	Not of yourself; it is the _____ of God.
3	Our conduct was like children of _____.	13	Christ brought us _____ to Holy God.
3	We lived just like all the _____.	16	He eliminated the _____ toward God.
5	We were dead in _____.	16	He _____ sinful man & Holy God.
8,9	We tried to save ourselves with _____.	18	We now have _____ to the Father.
9	We boasted about our own _____.		
12	We were without _____.		
12	We had no _____ and were without _____.		

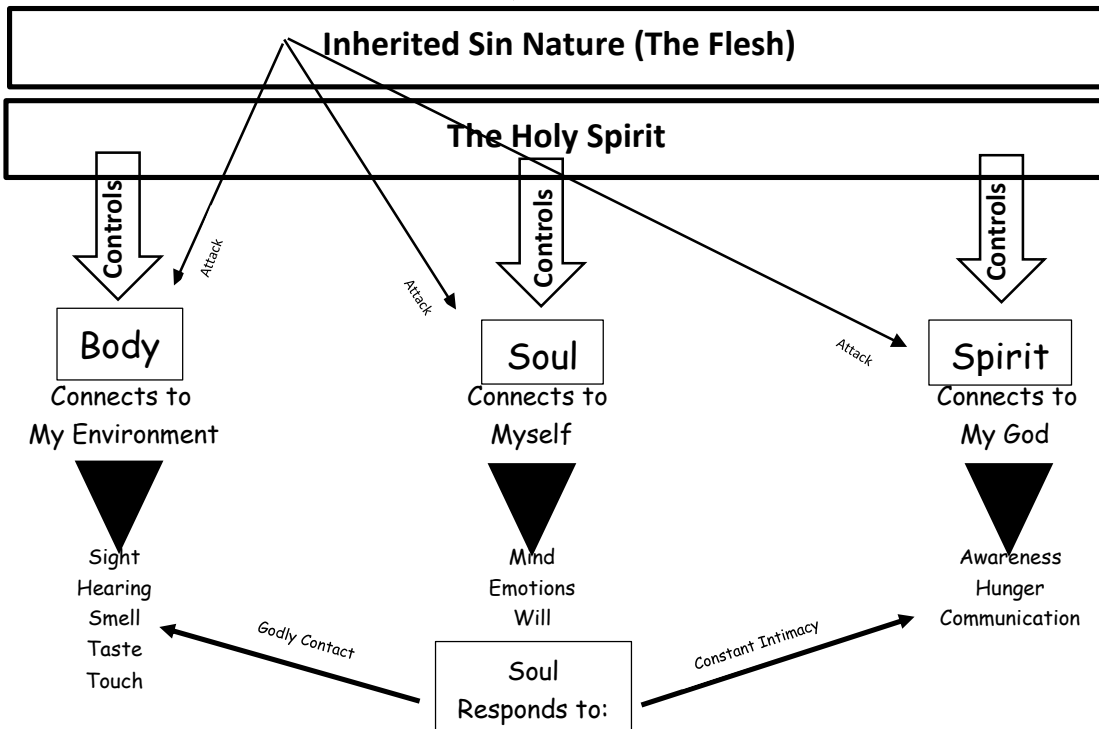
**BEFORE BECOMING A BELIEVER**



**Inherited Sin Nature (The Flesh)**



**AFTER BECOMING A BELIEVER**



11. Look at the chart on the previous page:

a. What are the five senses that **the body** uses to communicate with its physical environment here on earth?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the difference between the **five senses** for a non-believer, and the five senses of a believer?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. What are the three parts of a **man's soul** (or heart or inner me)?

\_\_\_\_\_

d. What is the difference between parts of a non-believer's **soul** and the parts of a believer's **soul**?

\_\_\_\_\_

*OK, let's summarize. The body parts & five senses of both unbelievers and believers are the SAME. The parts of man's soul for the unbelievers and believers are the SAME.*

12. Before you became a Christian, what/who was helping you: make decisions, think about things, use the body for various actions      \_\_\_The Flesh \_\_\_God

13. After you became a Christian, what/who was helping you decide, think, or act?      \_\_\_The Flesh \_\_\_God \_\_\_Both

**We need a few verses here.**

*Romans 8:9-10    But you (Roman believers) are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. And if Christ is in you, the controlling power of sin in your body is dead (defeated), and the Spirit is the controlling power - that life that generates righteousness in us.*

*Romans 9:8        .... That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are NOT the children of God.*

14. Before we were Christians, we were controlled by the inherited sinful nature (the flesh); we had no power over it; we were slaves to it.      \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

15. After we became a Christian, the Holy Spirit moved into our lives; He set us free as slaves from the flesh; we have the power to win over sin now.      \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

16. The inherited sin nature (the flesh) still wants to control our lives, and it still tries to keep control; it accuses us, attacks us, & tells us we're failures.      \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

17. People who claim to be believers & yet demonstrate no change in their evil choices, actions, and thoughts are certainly living like "children of the flesh". They may very well not be "children of God" at all". (This is hard to say.)      \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

*Our inherited sinful nature (our flesh) is not our friend. It is empowered by the devil himself. Since the devil is a defeated enemy of God, his doom is HELL forever. He would love to take us with him. If we are a believer, then he wants for us defeat, depression, no fruit, & an embarrassment to God.*

*1 Corinthians 15:50        Now this I say - listen brothers - that flesh & blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.*

➡ **If the only power that controls your life is "the flesh", then, you're going to hell.**

➡ **If your "life choices" in your Christian faith allow your flesh to make the decisions most of the time, your life will be "up" or "down" with repeated defeats.**

➡ **If your "life choices" in your Christian faith allow the Holy Spirit to take control of your body, your will, your mind, - then, daily victory is hopeful & possible.**

18. Match the statement with the verses.

- |                    |       |   |
|--------------------|-------|---|
| a. Romans 8:8      | _____ | Your sinful nature & flesh will fail your every time. |
| b. Romans 7:18     | _____ | The flesh is constantly fighting against your soul.   |
| c. Phil. 3:3       | _____ | Do not give the flesh permission to do anything.      |
| d. Matt. 26:41     | _____ | Fleshly wisdom is the opposite of Godly sincerity.    |
| e. Romans 7:25     | _____ | The flesh is not interested in the right things.      |
| f. Romans 13:14    | _____ | The fleshly mind worships all the wrong things.       |
| g. Psalm 73:26     | _____ | The flesh is so bad, that it needs to be executed.    |
| h. 1 Peter 2:11    | _____ | The flesh does not nor wants to please God.           |
| i. 2 Cor. 1:12     | _____ | There are NO good qualities in my flesh.              |
| j. Colossians 2:18 | _____ | The flesh serves one master - the law of sin.         |
| k. Galatians 5:24  | _____ | Don't put confidence in anything the flesh wants.     |

**A couple of thoughts:**

- 1) "Carnal" = "flesh" = sold into slavery by the devil
- 2) "Enmity" = "flesh" = hostile toward God (hatred)
- 3) "Lust" = "flesh" = "I want it no matter how bad it is"

### HOW TO FIGHT THE FLESH

(Without God's help every day, you will lose every time.)

**Christian counselor will say:** Set boundaries on behavior & do not cross over.

List (plan ahead) on the reasons why resisting is good.

Identify (be ready) & know what the negative triggers are.

Keep busy with healthy activities.

Strengthen & focus on your romantic (or other good) relationships.

Join and participate in support or worship groups.



**What does the Bible say?**

### MAINTAIN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

### MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT PRAYER LIFE

**Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

### MAINTAIN A REGULAR BIBLE STUDY HABIT

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is God-breathed, and is effective for DOCTRINE, for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, for INSTRUCTION in righteousness, that the man of God may be mature & thoroughly equipped for every good work.

DOCTRINE	= To Teach	(Teach it)	CORRECTION	= To Set Straight	(Fix it)
REPROOF	= To Convict	(Stop it)	INSTRUCTION	= To Experience	(Live it)