

## Key Ideas

1. **Jesus believed in the soul** → **His followers should, too** -----  
Jesus affirmed the existence of the soul, based on OT teaching. Jesus also said that his followers should hold to his teachings and teach them to others.
2. **You are not your brain. You use your brain.** -----  
Everyday phenomena such as conscious experience, free will, the unity of your consciousness, and identity over time cannot be explained by the brain alone.
3. **Near-Death Experiences provide powerful evidence for the soul** -----  
Many people have had vivid, conscious, out-of-body experiences while their heart and upper brain have ceased functioning. (See books on backside for info.)
4. **God has wedded your soul with your brain for His purposes** -----  
See "Key Quotes" on the backside for explanation. We can trust that God has wonderfully good purposes for our bodies now and for our eternal bodies.

## Key Scriptures

- Matthew 22:23-33 (Exodus 3:6);  
Matthew 10:28, 28:19; Luke 23:46;  
John 8:31-32; Acts 23:6
- Mark 12:30; Ezekiel 1; Matthew 23:37  
1 Corinthians 2:11, 13:11-12
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-4; Luke 23:43  
Ezekiel 8:1-4; Revelation 4:2ff
- Psalms 16:10; 1 Corinthians 15:35-44;  
The Book of Job; Daniel 12:1-3; Mark 4:1-20;  
Matthew 25:14ff; Romans 8:18ff; 1 Peter 1:3-7

## Questions: to ponder and discuss

- 1 Read Key Idea #1, then Matthew 10:28 and 22:23-33, followed by Matthew 28:19, and John 8:31-32. How important is it to accept what Jesus taught about the soul?
- 2 Read Key Ideas #2 and #3, then Mark 12:30 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-4. Do you think that the brain alone can produce the variety of mental phenomena that we experience? What do you think of near-death experiences? If you are interested or skeptical, would you consider reading one of the books recommended on the back?
- 3 Read Key Idea #4, as well as Psalm 16:10 and 1 Corinthians 15:35-44. Why is having a resurrected body better than having no body at all for the rest of eternity? Why is God going to give us new bodies?
- 4 Connection to the Cross: How can God love us this much, that he would die for us so that we would live forever with him in perfect bliss? What should our thankfulness to him look like?

*It's a Wonderful Life: Be ever thankful to God for giving you a life with neverending awe!*



# Take It Home:

## Key Quotes

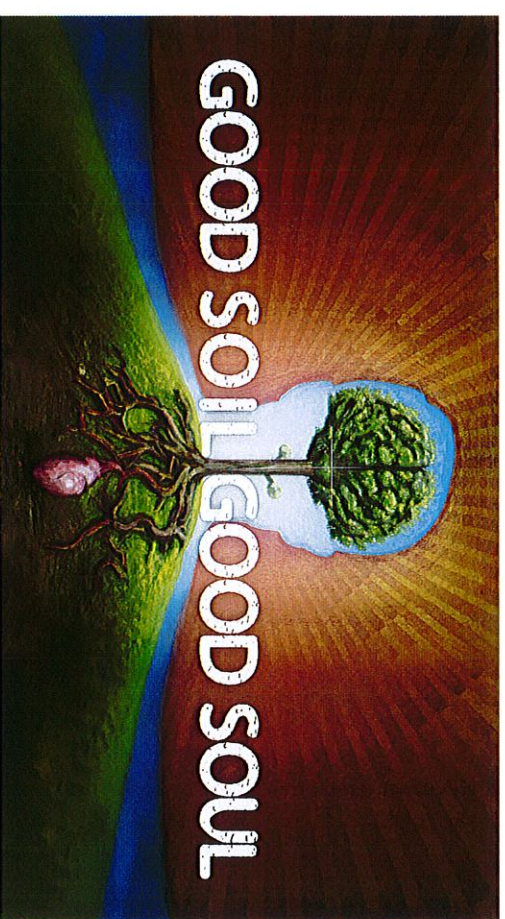
- † "It could be that the brain acts like a transmitter, or a filter, or a radio receiver for the soul."
- † "How can electrons, atoms, and molecules in the brain gain the miraculous power to experience things or to think about things?"
- † "God has planted your soul in the soil for a reason. God has wedded together mind and brain for his purposes. First, He wants you to use your brain, to be a good steward of your soil so that you actually contribute to who you eventually become and the fruit that you bear (Mark 4:1-20). Second, God wants us to experience limitations and weaknesses, to go through a battle for him, to prove that he alone is worthy to be praised no matter how much work or pain we endure (Book of Job). Third, there is something marvelous about the body... There are joys, wonders, sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and all kinds of sensations that are coming to our brand new bodies, and we can only imagine how good it will be in the eternal world (1 Corinthians 15:35ff, Romans 8:18ff)."

## Book Recommendations:

- *The Soul Hypothesis* by Mark C. Baker and Stewart Goetz
- *In Search of the Soul: Four Views of the Mind-Body Problem* by Joel B. Green and Stuart L. Palmer
- *Near-Death Experiences As Evidence for the Existence of God and Heaven* by J. Steve Miller
- *Evidence of the Afterlife* by Jeffrey Long, M.D.

## Exercise:

Take some time and meditate on 2 Corinthians 5:1-9 and 12:1-4. Then just sit or take a walk, and think about the wonders that await us in eternity. What sights will we see? Sounds? Smells? Tastes? Ask the Spirit to help guide your thoughts. When a question arises, consult the Bible (eg, Revelation 21-22; 1 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:18-30; 1 Corinthians 15:35-57; 1 John 3:1-3.). Be content with the mysteries that remain on this side of eternity. *Let this lead you into an extended time of worship.*



## Session 4:

# *And the Soul Felt its Worth*

## *Notes:*