

The Nature of Soul and Spirit



Eva Peck

The Nature of Soul and Spirit

Eva Peck

© 2020 by Eva Peck

All rights reserved

Except for any fair dealing permitted under the Copyright Act, no part of this book may be reproduced by any means without prior permission of the publisher.

Text and preparation for publishing: Rev. Eva Peck

Bible references from the New International Version (used by permission)

Cover and book design: Eva Peck

Cover photography courtesy of: Dan of Freeimages.com and Fa Barboza of Unsplash.com

Other photography:

Page vi: Dan of Freeimages.com

Author photos: Jindrich (Henry) Degen, edited by Alex Peck

For more information and other available literature, visit <http://universal-spirituality.net/> and <http://www.pathway-publishing.org/>



**Dedicated to all
who desire to understand
divine truths.**

Other Books in this Series

- The Greatest Love
- Salvation
- The Problem of Evil
- Answers to Prayer
- The Bible as a Guide to Life
- Life After Death
- Jesus the Christ – a New Look at His Identity and Mission
- Nature of God

Contents

Introduction.....	7
What is the Soul.....	8
Age of Souls.....	11
Pre-Incarnation Soul Life	13
Innumerable Souls and Promises to Patriarch Abraham	16
The Promised Blessing to All Souls	20
Soul's Destiny and Process of Transformation	24
What Is Spirit.....	27
Maintaining a Good Soul Condition	31
Prayer for Divine Love	41
Concluding Thoughts.....	50
Further Reading.....	54
Acknowledgements	55
About the Author	56
About Pathway Publishing.....	58



Introduction

Many years ago, I was ministering to a truth seeker and one of the questions that she really wanted an answer to was what is the difference between the soul and spirit. The Bible sometimes seems to use these two terms interchangeably and also spirit may have more than one meaning.

In this [message](#), Jesus tells us about our souls and also comments on the meaning of “spirit”. More insights about soul and spirit come from [Luke’s message](#) which in time order was given earlier. Other mediated message are also drawn on and referenced, as is the Holy Bible.

The material presented sometimes takes different turns to what is traditionally taught, based on extra-biblical revelation or providing alternatives of interpretation. So readers are encouraged to remain open-minded and prayerfully consider whether the information in this booklet resonates as truth or not.

What is the Soul

There is nothing in the material world that can be compared with the soul, and hence it is difficult to comprehend its nature and qualities. To gain understanding, a degree of spiritual development is needed from which will come what is known as soul perceptions. Only soul can understand soul, and the soul that seeks to comprehend itself must be a live and awakened with somewhat developed faculties, as opposed to a dormant or dead soul that is not spiritually minded or even harbouring negative attitudes, such as anger, hostility and hatred.

The soul is merely a creature of the Father, just as are other parts of man, such as the intellect, spirit body and material body. Before its creation, which occurred long before incarnation, the soul had no existence. Souls transformed by the Divine Love become divine and will have inherent immortality since they have been transformed into the Substance of the Father, who is immortal.

The soul was made the highest and most perfect of all God's creations, to such an extent that it was created in His image. It is the only thing and only part of man that is made in God's image, and forms the person's identity.

The intellect, spirit body, material body, as well as appetites and passions are only the means of manifestation given to the soul and to be its companions while on earth, and also, qualifiedly, after passing into the spirit world.

From its creation, the soul is not divine and may cease to exist without any part of the Divine nature or substance of the Father being affected. The soul has, however, God-given life which is not guaranteed for all eternity unless the soul acquires divine substance and nature through the Divine Love transforming it. Without this transformation, the soul can only return to the state of perfection in which it was created. It can never become anything different or greater than the perfect human, unless it receives and possesses the Divine Essence and qualities of the Father, which it did not possess

at its creation. If it accepts the privilege of receiving the Father's divine nature, it then becomes divine angel. This is conditional on obeying the commands of the Father, and pursuing the way He provided for obtaining and possessing that Divinity.

The soul's home is in the spirit body, whether that body is encased in the mortal or not, and it is never without such spirit body, which in appearance and composition is determined by the condition and state of the soul.

As mentioned, the soul is the real person – it provides our identity, giving us our unique nature and personality. It is possible that some souls are naturally more spiritually oriented – somewhat like Jesus was (though Jesus' soul was also protected from the ancestral influences that we all pick up in the incarnation).

Age of Souls

Our souls were created "long before" humans were created on earth – that could mean millions of years. It shows that God had a plan for humans in mind for a long time before they actually manifested. Psalm 139:13-17 comes to mind in this context:

“For you created my inmost being [my soul]; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully [awesomely] and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!”

We as humans, both collectively and individually, since our souls reflect our unique personalities, were known to God and in

existence as souls long before our earthly existence. Indeed, it is possible that God “saw” us in His mind as humans on earth during our very short, but very important existence.

Pre-Incarnation Soul Life

During their pre-incarnated existence, each soul is a “substantial conscious entity”. The un-incarnated souls are conscious of their existence, life around them, as well as their relationship to God. From Luke’s message we learn that all souls, before they enter into mortal bodies, are real, living existences and made in the likeness of the Great Soul, though not having the qualities and potentialities of that Soul. They also do not have the form of individualized personality -- this occurs after they become parts of the composition of the mortal and spiritual bodies of human beings.

The soul, prior to becoming an in-dweller in the mortal body, is also specifically conscious of the duplex character of its being – the sexual differences in the two parts of the soul, which, in the way that they are united, constitute one complete soul. When the time comes for this soul to incarnate, the two parts separate, and, at the same time, one of the parts enters into a

mortal. The remaining part may incarnate sooner or later thereafter, but never do both parts enter into the same mortal. While this separation is necessary for the individualization of each part of the complete soul, the two parts never lose their interrelationship or binding qualities that existed before their separation. In the future, after the work of individualization has been completed, the two parts will come together again and reunite in a complete one.

Being duplex – two soulmate “halves” connected -- each has a distinct personality, but no individuality or visible form. Individualization occurs through the incarnation, when one of the soulmates enters a foetus. As soon as that happens, even if live birth, for whatever reason, doesn't occur, individualization has taken place.

With a long conscious pre-incarnation existence, it is possible, as some have postulated, that the souls have a part in deciding at least to some extent what form and

direction their lives on earth will take. Speculating a bit further, it is also possible that they become aware of other souls on earth and their experiences, and even identify with them to some extent. If this happens, they might then remember these things when incarnated themselves. This could explain why some children seem to clearly remember situations and places as though they had lived another life before – yet we are told that [reincarnation does not occur](#).

Innumerable Souls and Promises to Patriarch Abraham

We are also told that the spirit world is “full” of un-incarnated souls – not visible, but being sensed by the spirits who have experienced physical life and returned to the spirit world to continue their development and fulfill their potential. It is not known whether the creation of souls has ended, or whether at some time in the future, human reproduction for the embodying of these souls will cease. Regardless, the great number of souls in existence shows that God “thinks big” and desires to have an untold number of children, all of whom, if they so choose, have the potential to be transformed into His substance, acquire His nature and enjoy immortal life of unimaginable beauty and happiness in His Celestial Kingdom.

A Bible account again comes to mind of the Old Testament patriarch, Abraham, who is seen

as the “father of the faithful”. Romans 4:16-18 tells us:

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law [Old Testament Israel, who were to follow the laws of the Old Covenant based on obedience] but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope [he and Sarah were in very advanced years], Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

The actual promise of innumerable offspring is given in Genesis 15, while Abraham was still childless and both he and his wife were way

past child-bearing age. It is also repeated in Gen. 17 and Gen. 22 and then elaborated on in the New Testament.

Genesis 15:5-6 says: *[God] took [Abram, who was later renamed Abraham] outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

Genesis 17:1-7 elaborates: *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.... this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; ... I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the*

generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”

Genesis 22:17-18 adds: “I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. ... through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

The Promised Blessing to All Souls

What then is this blessing? The letter to Galatians 3:5-29 gives us some clues:

Does God give you his Spirit [Divine Love] and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ...

Christ redeemed us ... in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith

we might receive the promise of the Spirit [imparting Divine Love]. ...

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ....

The Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ [and his teaching], might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came [knowledge of God’s Love available through faith], we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ [and his message of salvation through the Divine Love] that we might be justified by faith [rather than by law obedience]. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

You are all sons of God [true children of God] through faith in Christ Jesus [and acting on his teaching], for all of you who were

baptized [immersed] into Christ [Divine Love] have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs [of the blessings announced by Jesus] according to the promise.

So the blessing promised to Abraham thousands of years ago was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus and his announcement that the gift of God's Divine Love obtainable by faith through the Holy Spirit was available to Jews and non-Jews alike. This opened the way to salvation and immortality in the Kingdom of God. So by free choice, if they so desire, all souls may become children of the faithful Abraham through applying the teachings of his descendant Jesus. This also makes them true children of God bearing not just His image, but also His nature and substance.

Of course, Divine Love was not available to Abraham while on earth, but his faith was a type and prefigured what was to come, in the

same way that other Old Testament practices prefigured New Covenant spiritual realities. (See [Fulfillment of Old Testament Types](#).)

Soul's Destiny and Process of Transformation

The soul, being made of real substance, though invisible to mortals, is the *discerner and portrayer of each person's moral and spiritual condition*. In it are centered the love principle, the affections, appetites and passions, as well as the possibilities of receiving and assimilating surrounding influences. *Depending on which influences the soul chooses to absorb, they will either elevate the individual to the state of the divine angel or the perfect man, or lower them to conditions that in the spirit world will fit him for the hells of darkness and suffering.*

The soul is subject to the will of man, which is the greatest of all endowments God bestowed upon each person at their creation. Depending on the person's choices in life – their thoughts and/or actions – the soul will reflect qualities of love and affection or appetites and passions either for good or evil. Depending on the individual's will and choices, the soul may be

dormant and stagnate, or it may be active and progress. Its energies may be ruled by the will for good or evil, but these energies belong to the soul and are no part of the will.

The soul's condition determines the destiny of the individual, as they continue their life in the spirit world. This is not a final destiny, because the condition of the soul is never fixed, and as this condition changes, the person's destiny changes. Finality is not known to the progress of the soul, until it becomes the perfect man and is then satisfied and seeks no higher progress.

Those souls that choose to accept the gift of the Father's Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit start being transformed like the dough is transformed when yeast is added, or like water takes on a colour when a dye is added to it. As the soul progresses in its transformation, it progressively acquires divine nature and the mind of Deity which will replace the carnal mind. These souls, when they reach sufficient amount of soul transformation have achieved

the new birth and become inhabitants of the Celestial Kingdom with unlimited potential for growth, happiness, service and fulfillment. Jesus has reached the highest position and is the closest to the Fountainhead of God.

What Is Spirit

The word “spirit” has several meanings. There is the spirit of God and the Holy Spirit with an important difference between them as explained below. Mortals who have left physical bodies upon death are referred to as spirits. God too is a spirit, but not all spirit is God. And spirit is also the active energy of the soul.

Spirit of God versus the Holy Spirit

All things, mediately or immediately, have their existence, operation and growth in the *Spirit of God*. This spirit is evidenced in many ways in human and non-human experience. While we do not live and move and have our being in God, we do live and move and have our being in God’s Spirit. This spirit is the source of life, light, health and numerous other blessings that humans enjoy—the sinner as well as the saint, the poor as well as the rich, the ignorant as well as the enlightened and educated. Every

single person is dependent on this spirit for their being and comfort.

This is the spirit that all people possess to a greater or lesser degree. It is universal in its existence and workings, is omnipresent, and the degree of its acquirement depends on the degree that each person's mental receptivity permits. God, through and by this spirit, is always with humans — in the lowest hells as well as the highest heavens of the perfect man. It is working continuously, ceaselessly, and is always at the call of humans, be that call mental or spiritual. It controls the universe, of which the Earth is an infinitesimal part.

By contrast, the *Holy Spirit*, while a part of the spirit of God, is as distinct as the human soul is distinct from all other creations of God. It is that part of God's spirit which has to do with the relationship of God's soul and man's soul. The subject of its operation is the Divine Love of the Father's Soul, and the object of its workings is the soul of man. The goal of its operation is the transforming of the human soul

into the substance of the Father's Love, with consequent immortality. This is the great miracle of the universe. So high, sacred and merciful is the transformation to warrant calling that part of God's spirit that accomplishes this the Holy Spirit.

Not every part of God's spirit that operates on the hearts, thoughts and feelings of man is the Holy Spirit. Its mission is salvation in the sense of bringing people into harmony with God whereby human souls will become a part of the Soul of God in substance and not merely in image. Without the working of the Holy Spirit, such union cannot be achieved. This is the new birth without which no one can enter into the Kingdom of God. ([More information.](#))

Two Other Meanings of "Spirit"

Another meaning of "spirit" relates to mortals who have left the earth and passed to spirit life. However, they are not nebulous, unformed and invisible existences, but their bodies consist of substance which is more real and enduring than

that composing mortal bodies. These spirits have visible form and features and are subject to touch and the object of spiritual senses.

Finally, Jesus talks about the spirit as being the active energy of the soul. The soul has its energy, which may be dormant or active. If dormant, the spirit is not in existence. This spirit is altogether distinct and different from the spirit body, and also from the soul. It is not part of the spirit body, but is an attribute of the soul, without which it could not exist. It has no substance and is not visible to even spirit vision – only the effect of its workings can be seen or understood. It is without body or form yet real and powerful, and when existing, it never ceases in its operations.

Maintaining a Good Soul Condition

James Padgett, who as a medium for Jesus and other Celestial spirits received over two thousand spiritual messages about the true way to salvation and the Divine Love, was time after time exhorted to maintain a good spiritual condition. When he failed to do this, the angels couldn't connect with him to deliver the high truth. Here are the principles and advice that he was given to remain spiritually strong.

From Elias (Elijah)

If you are not in condition, you don't exactly understand the reason, and do not know how to remedy the difficulty. ... It is not merely a matter of having the inclination and intellectual assent to do the work, but, further, *the proper condition of your soul's longings is required, and this will not come to you by a mere acquiescence and willingness to do the work, but an active exercise of the soul's longings is*

called for, and you must take the effort to obtain these longings, so that your soul may receive more of the Divine Love.

You must make greater efforts to get these longings and this Love, so that there will come to you the soul development that will enable the higher spirits to make the rapport. Well, there is only one way in which you can obtain this development and that is by turning your thoughts to the Father and His Love until they shall develop into deep, sincere longings of the soul, and with these longings you should pray with all the earnestness of your nature for the inflowing of this Love. If you will do this, the longings will come and also the Love, and then you will find that your desires will go out to the spirits for communication with them.

From John

The first and important requirement is that you be in that condition of soul which will, because of its qualities, enable the spirits who may desire to write the higher messages to form

a rapport or union with you, which means simply to take charge and control of your brain - a brain which because of certain qualities and thoughts having possessed it, will be in harmony with the thoughts that these spirits desire to transmit through it.

You have been told on numerous occasions that you were not in condition and that the spirits could not make the rapport, and that *you must make the effort to get in condition; and this assertion and advice are all true. You were told to pray more to the Father and think of spiritual things, and then you would become in that condition.* This is true, and the advice is helpful. But you were not told what this praying to the Father or thinking of spiritual thoughts means, and, hence, *you may do these things in a way and yet not get in the condition.*

During the periods mentioned [when in good condition], *you prayed more often for the inflowing of the Divine Love and your longings were intense, and the desires to possess this Love, which is so vital to the preparation of*

your brain, were so much more active. And also your thoughts of things spiritual were so much more frequent. In other words, you were then seeking with your whole heart to learn the truths of God and to possess His Love; and, hence, your brain was continually in that condition which enabled the spirits to make the union and control it for the purpose of their higher expressions.

Lately you have not had the longings or prayed the prayers for the Love as frequently and, as a consequence, the qualities and elements of thought that have possessed your brain were not such as to put your brain in that condition which made it receptive to the passing through it of those thoughts of the higher truths. Now from this, you must not infer that this condition is a mere matter of brain condition, produced by itself, for it is not.

You have had the intellectual desire to write and receive the messages as much as you ever had, and also to receive messages of the higher truths that should be new as well as edifying to

you, and your desires were real, and you were disappointed because they were not realized. And this merely demonstrates to you that *there is something more than the mere mental or intellectual necessary to prepare the brain for the reception and transmission of that which partakes of the nature of truth that has its source in something else than the mere human mind.*

These higher truths come from spirits whose minds, as you might say, are of the soul, and as only soul can deal with soul, it requires that the *preparation of the brain should come from the exercise of soul powers upon the organs of that brain. And, hence, the necessity for your soul being in that condition that will produce in the brain the qualities that will unite and permit the truths of the soul to be received and transmitted.*

You must not only pray to the Father for the inflowing of this Divine Love but you must pray often, until you realize almost constantly the possession of this Love in your soul; and

also, you must turn your thoughts, and I do not mean the merely intellectual thoughts, but the thoughts of the soul, which as you have already had you may have again, to the spiritual truths which have been revealed to you, and to the spiritual realm where you believe other spiritual truths are waiting to be revealed.

If you will thus pray and think, you will find coming to you the desires and expectations of the fulfillment of these desires and an enthusiasm which will come from the development of your soul by the possession of this Love, and also the soul thoughts. This is what is meant by the condition necessary to enable the spirits to make the rapport.

From Jesus

You are in much better condition tonight than you have been for some time past, and I desire to tell you that it is due to the facts that you have turned your thoughts more to spiritual things, and have prayed more to the Father. If you will continue to do these things

you will soon be in that condition of soul where I can make the necessary rapport with you in order to deliver my messages. ...

I know that you are interested in the work, and *intellectually desire to receive the messages, but this, as I have told you, is not sufficient. You must get in that condition of soul development that will bring you in rapport with me* as I come to you for the purpose of writing these higher truths. It has been explained to you that a particular quality of rapport is required in order that we may be able to get in that condition of harmony that will enable us to use your brain and hand so that the messages may be delivered. So for the next few days *try to have your soul opened up to the inflowing of the love so that the development may come to you.*

I have many messages to write before the book will be completed, and so have many other spirits who are engaged in the work. *Pray, and let all the longings of your soul go to the*

Father, and you will realize the response that will fit you for the work.

Summing up the three messages, developing spiritually and maintaining a good soul condition takes desire and effort. It requires frequent prayer to the Father for His Love, as well as a spiritually oriented mind, having spiritual thoughts and contemplating spiritual truths. This will result in soul longings and in turn more Love in the soul.

Here are a couple of relevant Bible passages:

Philippians 2:12 – Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed ... continue to work out your salvation ... for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philippians 4:6-8 -- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which

transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [Divine Love]. Finally, brothers [and sisters], whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Other Factors Affecting Spiritual Condition

There are a multitude of other factors that influence one's spiritual condition. These include staying in light, peace and harmonious environment, avoiding excessive attachments, maintaining appropriate diet and sufficient hydration, avoiding toxic substances, keeping positive and harmonious company and relationships, staying fit, having adequate rest, taking personal responsibility, maintaining faith and hope, having purpose, having confidence in being loved, and feeling safe and secure.

Our heavenly Father is more than happy to meet each person where they are and promises that when any individual, at soul level, even without their consciousness thereof, yearns for a relationship with Him and His Divine Love, they will receive it.

Jesus promised: Ask and you shall receive. Echoing Peter's opening greeting in one of his epistles: 2 Peter 1:2 – Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Since prayer for Divine Love is important for embarking on the Divine Love journey toward salvation and the needed soul growth, the next chapter provides several sample prayers.

Prayer for Divine Love

The following are example prayers for the receipt of the Divine Love. None of them have to be prayed verbatim, but they can give ideas how to approach the Father who is always happy when His children ask for His Holy Spirit which imparts the Divine Love (Luke 11:13).

It is important to be consistent and continue to pray for the Divine Love, as soul transformation doesn't happen all at once, but is a process.

“Prayer Perfect”

The prayer below contains the basic truths given to humankind by Celestial Spirits.

Our Father, who are in heaven, we recognize that You are all holy and loving and merciful, and that we are Your children, and not the subservient, sinful and depraved creatures that our false teachers would have us believe. That we are the greatest of Your creation, and the most wonderful of all Your handiworks, and the

objects of Your great soul's love and tenderest care.

That Your will is that we become at one with You, and partake of Your great Love which You have bestowed upon us through Your mercy and desire that we become, in truth, Your children, through love, and not through the sacrifice and death of any of Your creatures.

We pray that You will open up our souls to the inflowing of Your Love, and that then may come Your Holy Spirit to bring into our souls Your Love in great abundance, until our souls shall be transformed into the very essence of Yourself; and that there may come to us faith — such faith as will cause us to realize that we are truly Your children and one with You in very substance and not in image only.

Let us have such faith as will cause us to know that You are our Father, and the bestower of every good and perfect gift, and that only we, ourselves, can prevent Your love changing us from the mortal to the immortal.

Let us never cease to realize that Your Love is waiting for each and all of us, and that when we come to You, in faith and earnest aspiration, Your Love will never be withheld from us.

Keep us in the shadow of Your Love every hour and moment of our lives, and help us to overcome all temptations of the flesh, and the influence of the powers of the evil ones, which so constantly surround us and endeavour to turn our thoughts away from You to the pleasures and allurements of this world.

We thank You for Your love and the privilege of receiving it, and we believe that You are our Father — the loving Father who smiles upon us in our weakness, and is always ready to help us and take us to Your arms of love.

We pray this with all the earnestness and longings of our souls, and trusting in Your Love, give You all the glory and honour and love that our finite souls can give. Amen.

The following is a list of other Prayer Perfect Resources:

- [Video version](#) of the prayer
- [Sung version of the prayer](#) accompanied by piano.
- Illustrated PDF file of the prayer is at [Prayer for Divine Love](#)
- For an illustrated JPG image, [go to this page](#).
- For an outline of the prayer, go to [Prayer Perfect Outline](#)
- To see the structure of the prayer, go to [Prayer Perfect Structure](#)
- A [7-part slide show](#) of the prayer combined with the spiritual practice of *Lectio Divina*
- A slide show combined with [reading of the prayer](#)

Prayers from the Bible

Here are four personally inspiring Bible passages which are prayers of thanksgiving attributed to the apostle Paul (though the exact authorship is not important). They are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible and are easy to read. I have bolded the parts that particularly speak to me, and have also

inserted notes in brackets that parallel information in this book.

Ephesians 1:16-19:

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that **you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** [*prayer for increased soul perceptions*] in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, **the riches of his glorious inheritance** [*Celestial Kingdom*] in the saints, **19 and his incomparably great power** [*Divine Love that transforms our souls from divine image to divine substance and mortal to immortal*] for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ...

Ephesians 3:16-21

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being**, *[soul growth and soul perceptions through Divine Love]* **17** so that Christ *[Divine Love]* may dwell in your hearts through faith. *[Divine Love in the soul]* And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, **18** may have power, together with all the saints, to **grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. *[all aspects of Divine Love]* **20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us *[how awesome!]*, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Philippians 1:9-11

9 And this is my prayer: **that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight**, [*prayer for growth in Divine Love and soul perceptions*] **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. [*through Divine Love transforming the soul.*]

Colossians 1:3-6, 9-14

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** because we have heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints** – **5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven** [*again, Divine Love?*] and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel **6** that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and

growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood **God's grace in all its truth.** [*Divine Love is a gift of grace*] ...

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.** [*again, soul perceptions*] **10** And we pray this in order that you may **live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way:** bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully **12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.** [*Celestial Kingdom reached through Divine Love*] **13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son he**

loves, [*Celestial Kingdom of which Jesus is the Master*] **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [*through praying for and receiving the Divine Love*].

Concluding Thoughts

The ancients of the Old Testament, Job and David, have asked on more than one occasion:

Job 7:17 – “What is man that you make so much of him, that you give him so much attention, ...?”

Job 15:14 – “What is man, that he could be pure, or one born of woman, that he could be righteous?”

Psalm 8:3-4 – When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Psalm 144:3-4 – O LORD, what is man that you care for him, the son of man that you think of him?

The New Testament writer of the letter to the Hebrews repeats the question and replies:

Heb 2:6-9 – But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet.” In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor ...

This small book too attempts to briefly answer this question. It shows that man is a God-created soul able to relate to his/her Maker, who too is Soul. In one way, compared to the rest of God’s creation, man is super small and insignificant. Even the Earth and the Milky Way galaxy are just specks in an awesome Universe, and scientists postulate that there may be untold number galaxies, universes and even multiverses. If the physical creation is beyond our comprehension, how much more the spiritual one!

While limited and fragile, with only a fleeting existence on the earth, man indeed has a glorious potential. And Jesus, as the firstborn and pioneer of our salvation through living and teaching the way to the new birth and at-onement with God has already achieved that potential as a Master of the Celestial Heavens, though he too is still growing and becoming more and more glorious as a divine angel approaching the Fountainhead of God.

2 Tim. 1:8-10 – ... by the power of God, who has saved t us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

By grace, through God's mercy, we each can follow Jesus' teaching and footsteps. We too have the privilege to ask for and receive God's Divine Love, which will transform our souls into

divine substance, impart God's nature, and qualify us to dwell, like Jesus and others who have preceded us on this journey, in God's Celestial spheres with unlimited potential for service, growth opportunities and happiness.

One can only echo the apostle Paul's exclamation in Ephesians 3:20-21. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Further Reading

More about this and related subjects can be found on the author's website as well as the following:

- <http://universal-spirituality.net/about/free-publications/>
- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. I](#)
- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. II](#)
- <http://new-birth.net/>

Acknowledgements

First, I would like to thank God the Father, the Source of all things, as well as those in the Celestial realms for enabling, inspiring and blessing this publication.

I must also thank my husband, Alex, for his ever-present support. He is always ready to help and to give helpful advice.

In addition, I wish to acknowledge my dear friend, Rev. Michael Nedbal for his support and encouragement.

About the Author



Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister and trustee in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. Having lived and worked in Australia, the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, including teaching English as a foreign language, she has experienced a range of cultures, customs, and environments. She now draws on those experiences in her writing.

Eva has a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, a post-graduate Diploma in Education, and a Master's degree in Theology. Since her retirement from teaching, she has

been devoting her time to spiritual pursuits. She has written and published a number of books on spiritual themes, as well as building and maintaining several websites.

Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Alex.

About Pathway Publishing

Pathway Publishing, managed by Eva Peck, is dedicated to sharing truth and beauty by publishing books and producing websites that present what is true to life and reality, as well as what is lovely and inspirational. The goal is to not only provide sound information, but also to uplift the human spirit.

Pathway Publishing has a vision of enriching the life of readers here and now, as well as helping them on their path of enlightenment and spiritual transformation. The wisdom and experience of spiritual teachers, thinkers, and visionary writers from various backgrounds and faith traditions are recognized and valued.

Books produced by Pathway Publishing broadly fall into two categories – spirituality and the arts – and include:

Spirituality

- *Divine Reflections in Times and Seasons*, Eva Peck
- *Divine Reflections in Natural Phenomena*, Eva Peck
- *Divine Reflections in Living Things*, Eva Peck
- *Divine Insights from Human Life*, Eva Peck
- *Pathway to Life - Through the Holy Scriptures*, Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Journey to the Divine Within – Through Silence, Stillness and Simplicity*, Alexander and Eva Peck
- *Jesus' Gospel of God's Love*, Eva Peck
- *Abundant Living on Small Income*, Eva Peck
- *The Greatest Love*, Eva Peck
- *Salvation*, Eva Peck
- *Problem of Evil*, Eva Peck

- *Answers to Prayer*, Eva Peck
- *The Bible as a Guide to Life*, Eva Peck
- *Life After Death*, Eva Peck
- *Jesus Christ – A New Look at His Identity and Mission*, Eva Peck and Michael Nedbal
- *Fulfillments of Old Testament Types*, Eva Peck

Art, Photography and Poetry

- *Artistic Inspirations - Paintings of Jindrich Degen* arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Colour and Contrast – Artwork of Jindrich Degen* arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Faces and Forms Across Time – Artwork of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Variations – Art Exhibition of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck

- *Floral and Nature Art – Photography of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Nature's Beauty – Art Photography of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck
- *Volné verše*, Jindrich Degen (Czech poetry)
- *Verše pro dnešní dobu*, Jindrich Degen (Czech poetry)
- *Pardál za úplňku a jiné povídky*, Eva Vaníčková (Czech stories set mostly in Indonesia)

Pathway Publishing

Seeking truth and beauty



The Nature of Soul and Spirit

Many years ago, a truth seeker with many questions really wanted to understand the difference between the soul and spirit. The Bible and other writings sometimes use these two terms interchangeably, and also spirit may have more than one meaning.

This small book explores the answer to this question based on biblical and other teachings. It addresses the subject of origin of souls, age and pre-incarnation life of souls, as well as the soul in this life and its incredible future potential.

The material presented sometimes takes different turns to what is traditionally taught or believed, based on extra-biblical revelation or providing alternatives of interpretation. Readers are encouraged to remain open-minded and prayerfully consider whether the information resonates as truth or not.

Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister and trustee in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. She has written and published a number of books on spiritual themes, as well as building and maintaining several websites. Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Alex.



www.pathway-publishing.org