

THE RELATION OF BODY, SPIRIT & SOUL

'An unlighted candle would correspond to an inanimate human body or corpse; the lighting of the candle would correspond to the spark of life originally imparted by the Creator; the flame or light corresponds to sentient being, or intelligence, or soul quality; the oxygenised atmosphere which unites with the carbon of the candle in supporting the flame corresponds to the *breath of life* or spirit of life which unites with the physical organism in producing soul or intelligent existence. If an accident should occur which would destroy the candle, the flame, of course, would cease; so if a human or animal body be destroyed, as by disease or accident, the *soul*, the *being*, intelligence, personality, *ceases*. Or if the supply of air were cut off from the candle flame, as by an extinguisher or snuffer, or by submerging the candle in water, the light would be extinguished even though the candle remained unimpaired. So the *soul*, life, existence, of man or animal would cease if the breath of life were cut off by drowning or asphyxiation, while the body might be comparatively sound.'

THE AT-ONE-MENT BETWEEN
GOD AND MAN

'The Soul That Sinneth, It Shall Die'

[E342]

THE CANDLE ILLUSTRATION

The relation of body, spirit, and soul



SOUL

The flame or light—
sentient being,
intelligence,
personality.

SPIRIT (BREATH OF LIFE)

The oxygen in the air which
unites with the body and
produces the soul.

BODY

The candle itself—
the physical organism.

The soul
is the sentient being.
Its existence depends
on the union of
body and spirit.



IF THE BODY IS DESTROYED



Flame: Soul
Burning

Candle destroyed:
Flame ceases

No flame:
Soul ceases

If the body is destroyed (as by disease or accident),
the soul—the sentient being—ceases.

IF THE SPIRIT IS WITHDRAWN



Flame: Soul
Burning

Supply of air
cut off

Flame goes out:
Soul ceases

If the supply of air (spirit of life) is cut off
(by drowning, asphyxiation, etc.), the soul ceases,
though the body may remain.

Death is the cessation of the soul,
the sentient being, resulting from
the separation of body and spirit.

*The body returns to the dust;
the spirit (breath of life) returns to God
who gave it; and the soul ceases.*

— Ecclesiastes 12:7