

UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL
17th 1pm

BAPTISMS & CELEBRATION

Baptisms are coming up April 17th at 1pm. Come celebrate and stay for Nacho Bar lunch immediately after.

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WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

If you want to be baptized or would like more information, visit the Welcome Center to learn more!

MAY
13th 7pm

CONNECT PARTY

A fun evening filled with desserts, laughter and a chance to meet and get to know others at Element. A great way to get connected & find out more about Element and what next steps are!

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team



ELEMENT
christian church



TODAY'S VERSES:

Deuteronomy 4:9
Genesis 2:7
Psalm 23:1-3

Genesis 1:28
Romans 8:6
Acts 27:37

Mark 8:36
Psalm 121:5

NOTES:

THE SOUL

DEUTERONOMY 4:9 ONLY TAKE CARE, AND KEEP YOUR SOUL DILIGENTLY, LEST YOU FORGET THE THINGS THAT YOUR EYES HAVE SEEN, AND LEST THEY DEPART FROM YOUR HEART ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE. MAKE THEM KNOWN TO YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

The word “soul” is something everyone recognizes, we may even have opinions about it, but don't exactly know what to say. Almost all religious, philosophical, mythological, and even psychological traditions have a certain notion of the “soul” even if they wouldn't use that exact word.

What does it mean for someone to do something with “soul?”
If you were talking to a small child, how would you define “soul?”

The idea of a soul has confused the best minds for thousands of years. Thomas Aquinas, who is considered one of the greatest theologians in the history of the church (born 1125 AD), believed every living creature had a soul, but only human beings souls were immortal and that made us different. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle didn't have the word “soul” in their language and essentially called the psyche what we would define as a soul (the essence of a person).

Read Psalm 23:1-3.

The words for soul most often used in the Old Testament is *Ruah* and *Nephesh*. They have the same basic connotation and meaning, “to breathe.” This refers to a person, or a life; a nephesh was something that was capable of breath, meaning a soul breathes. In Psalm 23 when the Psalm writer says, “God restores my soul,” it literally means that God “restores my life” or “God returns me to who or what I was meant to be.” God revives our humanity.

We have an inner life and an outer life.

- **Outer Life** – This is the public, visible you. Its what others see when they look at you and it is what you want others to think you are.
- **Inner Life** – This is the life we try to hide, what we try to convince ourselves doesn't really matter as long as everything on the outside is doing OK. It is invisible and easy to neglect, but it really drives who you are on the outside.

For too long we have tried to find ways to make these things separate in order to not have to deal with the importance of both at the same time. We think if our outer life is happy then our inner life should fall in line and be

happy, but it almost never does because we are one being and these two things need to come in line together.

In what ways do you try to define a difference in your inner life and your outer life?

Louis Berkhof, *“Every act of man is seen as an act of the whole man. It is not the soul, but man that sins; it is not the body, but man that dies; and it is not merely the soul, but man, body and soul, that is redeemed in Christ.”*

What are the dangers of dividing our inner life and outer life into two separate entities?

What could be the blessings of understanding ourselves as one SOUL?

Dallas Willard, *“What is running your life at any given moment is your soul... The soul is the life center of a human being.”* Your soul is meant to integrate your will (your intentions), your mind (your thoughts and feelings and conscience), and your body (actions) into a single life. Too often we lived disintegrated lives because we refuse to align all of ourselves in the person of Jesus.

Read Mark 8:36.

Would you be satisfied if you gained all you wanted out of life, but Jesus wasn't part of it? *(don't rush pass this question, if you got all you ever wanted, desired, and dreamed, is Jesus really part of that dream? If not, you will always have a disintegrated soul).*

Our souls were made to worship Jesus, but we are constantly finding anything we can to take His place (whether it is people or things). We keep trying to fill our deepest longing with things that never restore, integrate, or satisfy our souls. We need to believe the reality that our souls were made to orbit around someone greater than ourselves.

- **Our souls need a keeper** – *Psalm 121:5 The Lord is your keeper;* Our souls ultimately belong to God and He is interested in what they are becoming.
- **Our souls need a center** – We were made by God and need Him in order to truly live.
- **Our souls need a future** – Redemption is also an understanding that our past does not have to be our future.

What or who would you say is your soul's keeper?

What or who would you say is your soul's center?

What or who would you say is your soul's future?

The truth is our soul needs to be with Jesus. Your soul will only find rest, freedom, and blessing by being surrendered in alignment with Jesus.