



## SOUL CARE: PART 2: "WHAT GOOD WILL IT BE...?"

January 12, 2020

Pastor Brad Williams

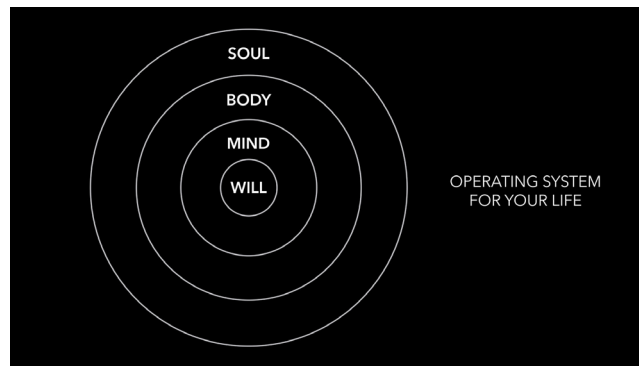
### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

#### MAIN TEXT(S):

*Romans 8:6; Matthew 16:26; Mark 4:3-9*

### SUMMARY

At the beginning of a new year, people often make goals and set resolutions for how they What is the soul? Our soul is like the operating system of our lives. We usually don't take notice of it unless something is wrong. The soul is really the integration of our will, our mind, and our body. When our will, mind, and body are working together and towards the same ends, our soul is at peace. When our will, mind, and body are working against each other, our souls are damaged.



The Parable of the Sower illustrates three ways our souls can be unhealthy. Our souls can be hardened. We can become angry and bitter. Our souls can be shallow, focusing only on surface level things. Our souls can also become cluttered. We can get so distracted by everything that's happening in our lives that we forget to think about or care for our souls. Instead, God invites us to pursue health for our souls, to have souls that are soft, deep, and at peace.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

### LEAN IN

***These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What is something that you had to learn but you now do almost without thinking about it?
2. Tell about a time when you came up short or did something wrong, but had a great excuse.
3. What new concept did you learn about the soul this week?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?  
Why was it significant to you?

**LOOK DOWN**

*These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. What do you learn about the soul from Romans 8:6?  
What does this verse teach us about our minds?
2. What do you learn about the soul from Matthew 16:26?
3. In Mark 4:3-9, what things in this story are consistent? What things changed?  
What does this tell you about God?
4. What do you think the "soils" in Mark 4:3-9 refer to?  
How would you describe the "soils" in real life?
5. What do you learn about the soul from the combination of these passages?

**LOOK OUT**

*These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. In his sermon, Pastor Brad displayed a diagram to describe what the soul actually is.  
This diagram was of concentric circles with the will in the center, surrounded by the mind, the body, and the soul as the outermost circle. What do you think of this definition of the soul? How does this diagram change or confirm your thoughts about the soul?
2. Who do you know that is a great example of integrity? What do you think the state of their soul is?
3. If the will is at the center of the soul, why do we not always behave the way we know is best? What kinds of things limit our wills?
4. How have you seen people damage their souls? If a healthy soul is all about integration, how do people cause disintegration in their souls?
5. Pastor Brad said that the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:3-9) can be read as a reflection of the different types of souls. How have you seen each soil at work in the lives of people around you? Which soil/soul type do you think is most common today?

**LOOK IN**

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. If a healthy soul is all about integrity between your mind, body, and will, how would you rate the health of your soul? What kinds of things keep you from having greater integrity in your life?
2. When in your life have you felt like you have damaged your soul?  
When have you been lacking in integrity?
3. How have you experienced the different soils/soul conditions in different seasons of your life?
4. Which soil/soul condition do you most relate to at this period in your life?
5. Pastor Brad said that when we recognize a lack of integrity in our lives, we often make excuses or justify things that we've done. Do you have an example of this from your own life? What might it have looked like for you to live with integrity in that situation?  
How would that have affected your soul?

*cont.*

**LIVE IT OUT**

*These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.*

**Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.**

1. What can you do this week to create greater integrity in your life/soul this week?  
How can your group encourage you in this venture?
2. How can your group pray for you this week as you seek to be good soil/have a well cared for soul?
3. What can you do this week to begin to find healing for your damaged soul?  
How can your group support you?

