

A four week study on the keywords of
“**The Shema**” (pronounced: Sha-ma)

A Jewish prayer that has been prayed every morning and evening for thousands of years.

Part 3- Soul (Nephesh)

Sunday, March 4th, 2018

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

“*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*”

English- (Hebrew)

Hear- (Shema)

—> Listen AND Obey

LORD- (Yahweh)

—> God’s name is HOLY

Love- (Ahavah)

—> Feelings AND Action

Heart- (Levav/Lev)

—> Thought + Physical + Emotion + Choice

Soul- (Nephesh)

—> Living, Breathing, Physical Being

Watch Video: “Nephesh/Soul” by The Bible Project (3:57)

“You don’t HAVE a soul, you ARE a soul.”

Most basic meaning for “*nephesh*” is actually the word “*throat*.”

Numbers 11:6- Israelites in the wilderness

Psalm 105:18- Joseph being hauled off to Egypt

Genesis 46:15- nephesh are PEOPLE in Jacob’s family

Numbers 31:19- a murderer is called a “nephesh-slayer”

Deuteronomy 24:7- a kidnapper is called a “nephesh-thief”

From the first pages of The Bible we learn that humans and animals alike are “living nephesh” and that when something dies and becomes a corpse it’s merely called a “dead nephesh.”

Nephesh = more than just the English word “Soul” as we’ve come to understand it—> it most often refers to people as a living physical organism.

We must focus on our life AND our entire body and existence offering praise and glory to God.

Psalm 42:1-4 (NIV)

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.”

Does your whole physical being long to know and be known by your Creator?

Back to "The Shema:" So...Loving the LORD your God with all your *soul* (nephesh) means to offer your entire physical existence to Him, all your capabilities AND your limitations. To devote everything you are, have and desire to your Creator in order that in doing so, you will be able to love Him and love your neighbor as yourself.