

Speculations on the Nature of Spirit

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*We are not human beings having a spiritual experience;
we are spiritual beings having a human experience.*

~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

*We do not believe in immortality because we can prove it,
but we try to prove it because we cannot help believing it.*

~ Harriet Martineau

Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.

~ Albert Einstein

Everything should be as simple as possible, but not simpler

~ Albert Einstein

Introduction

The word “spirit” is often used to mean an amorphous force or a principle that animates living beings in various ways, such as showing “school spirit” when cheering for a sports team. However, for the purpose of this paper, the word “spirit” signifies a personal entity such as an angel, a demon, or God, or a portion of an entity, such as the spirit of a person. In other words, spirit here does not refer to an inanimate power such as “the force be with you.” Rather, it is personal, mindful, intelligent, purposeful, and capable of being good and/or evil.

This immediately raises the question of whether spirits exist – either as personal or as inanimate forces, and how we can know for sure one way or the other. In ancient and medieval times people would look to authorities and writings such as the Bible, whereas contemporary people typically look to science for answers to these questions; but science is not very helpful here because it has no way of testing or analyzing anything that is not physical.

Science by its nature is empirical – it is based on the observation and experimentation of physical things. Ideally, experiments can be repeated with the same or at least similar results, such as the determination that water is composed of the gases hydrogen and oxygen. This provides a level of validation and possibly a “proof” to whatever was being investigated. However, science is limited in that it can only investigate physical things, but even here there are limitations to scientific certainty, such as the following:

- Archaeological discoveries and historical artifacts such as the Shroud of Turin ([Sorensen, 2025b](#)). They can provide evidence of what happened in the past but are subject to the (possibly fallible) interpretation of the archaeologist or historian. Scientific proof cannot be provided because history is non-empirical and therefore outside the realm of science.
- The micro level of physical reality (i.e., the fundamental nature of matter and energy) has not been determined and is therefore only theoretical (e.g., Quantum Mechanics and Super-String Theory).
- The macro level of physical reality (i.e., cosmology, the formation of galaxies, and the size of the universe) has also not been determined and is therefore also only theoretical.
- Human consciousness and mind are likewise not currently explicable by science.

Spirit is beyond the physical, so there is no way that spirit can be analyzed, or its nature determined by science. Nevertheless, as in the case of historical artifacts, the mind, and the micro and macro nature of physical reality, there is evidence that can lead us to reasonable conclusions. Proof is impossible but the examination of evidence can provide satisfactory explanations.

Does human spirit exist?

Some people, known as naturalists, deny that spirit exists and believe that only physical things are real. In other words, reality is only what we can experience with our five senses. But given that there is no way of proving the existence or non-existence of spirit, we must look for evidence.

The first form of corroboration for the existence of human spirit is our own nature. We are not satisfied purely with life on earth, especially as we approach death, as in the quote, “There are no atheists in foxholes.” Our literature and poetry often discuss eternity and long for a life after death such as the poem *Death Be Not Proud* by John Donne, and the quote by Harriet Martineau above. Most religions teach life after death in various forms – nirvana in Buddhism and Hinduism, paradise in Islam, and heaven in Judaism and Christianity. C.S. Lewis addresses this point in his essay *The Weight of Glory*:

Do what they will, then, we remain conscious of a desire which no natural happiness will satisfy. But is there any reason to suppose that reality offers any satisfaction to it? “Nor does the being hungry prove that we have bread.” But I think it may be urged that this misses the point. A man's physical hunger does not prove that that man will get any bread; he may die of starvation on a raft in the Atlantic. But surely a man's hunger does prove that he comes of a race which repairs its body by eating and inhabits a world where eatable substances exist. In the same way, though I do not believe (I wish I did) that my desire for Paradise proves that I shall enjoy it, I think it a pretty good indication that such a thing exists and that some men will. A man may love a woman and not win her; but it would be very odd if the phenomenon called “falling in love” occurred in a sexless world. ([Lewis, 1941](#)).

Another more scientific and therefore perhaps a more convincing issue is the phenomenon of near-death experiences (NDEs) which have happened with many people around the world ([Gray et al., 2023](#)). Even naturalistic scientists have to admit that they are unable to explain the NDE phenomenon. The existence of the soul has been acknowledged by scientists ([Lanza, 2011](#); [Smith, 2017](#)). In some NDE cases the individuals were brain-dead, but later reported seeing and hearing things that took place as their body lay lifeless ([Sunfellow, 2019a, 2019b](#)). Somehow they came back to life and reported their experiences of life after death ([Gray et al., 2023](#); [Moody, 2015](#)).

What is the difference between body, soul, and spirit?

Although the above paragraph provides strong evidence for the existence of something within people that continues after the death of the body, can this be classified as either the “soul” or the “spirit” of an individual?

The only reliable source we have for informing us about the creation of life, what happens after death, and the nature of eternity is the Bible because it is the only book that a) claims to have divine authority, and b) backs up that claim by the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.¹

¹ For an extended treatment of this topic, see Sorensen, R. B. (2025c). *Is the Bible Myth?* https://www.academia.edu/130431720/Is_the_Bible_Myth, and Sorensen, R. B. (2009). *Accuracy of the Bible and Questioning God*. https://www.academia.edu/42748548/Accuracy_of_the_Bible_and_Questioning_God

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

The grass withers and the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows upon it. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:7-8)

But Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible states that we were created “Imago Dei” – in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). God is a trinity of three separate beings within one entity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). We are likewise “trinitarian,” albeit unlike God, all three aspects of our nature are within only one being. We have a body corresponding to God the Son, a soul (our mind) corresponding to God the Father, and a spirit (our eternal aspect that will survive the death of our body) corresponding to God the Holy Spirit.

Note that the text above from Hebrews 4:12 speaks of Scripture as being able to “divide the soul from the spirit.” In this passage the Greek word for “soul” is “psyches” meaning mind, consciousness, or life, and the Greek work for “spirit” is “pneumatosis” meaning air, breath, or wind, i.e., an unseen but nevertheless active agent (the word is also used for the Holy Spirit). The Bible is thus capable of describing the difference between these two concepts even though they are inexorably interlinked within us.

Despite the fact that the words “soul” and “spirit” are sometimes comingled in the Bible and in our everyday speech, they are actually different things. Therefore, we are herein equating the human soul with the mind (i.e., our personality, intelligence, knowledge, experience, memory, identity, etc.) and defining the soul/mind as the repository for everything that makes us the person that we are. The human spirit is the “container” for the soul/mind. However, the way in which our body, our soul/mind, and our spirit are “glued together” is a mystery, but there are clues discussed below.

Do angels and demons exist?

As with the case of human spirit, there is no way of proving existence or non-existence of angels, demons, and God. Whatever we believe or disbelieve is a matter of faith. The Bible tells us:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6).

This reality and the origin of angels and demons are covered in detail in the paper and video, “Are Angels and Demons Real?” ([Sorensen, 2025a](#)).

How powerful is God?

God is an omnipotent (all-powerful) spirit, and His greatness, His love, and His righteousness exceeds everything we can imagine. We can only begin to grasp this as we meditate on what God through the Bible has said about Himself:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

Before reading the next verse, consider the size of the universe, the fact that there are unknown trillions of galaxies, each of which contains trillions of stars, planets, black holes, etc.

Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars – the One who leads forth their host by number. He calls them all by name and because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing. (Isaiah 40:26)

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements, or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?... Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth (the Zodiac) in its season, or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, and can you set their dominion over the earth?"... Then Job answered the Lord and said: “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand – things too wonderful for me, which I did not know... Therefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 38:4-7, 38:31-33, 42:1-6)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20)

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father knowing. The very hairs of your head are all numbered. (Matthew 10:29-30)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:7-9)

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:1-3)

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:25-26)

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." (Revelation 21:8)

The creation of the world involved both the "spirit" and the "soul" of God. The refrain throughout Genesis chapter one is "God said," and "it was so." In other words, the breath or air of God that came from Him (i.e., His spirit) was the container that encapsulated His intelligence, design, purpose, and power (i.e., His soul) which causes everything to come into existence. The Bible also states that God is omnipresent, so His spirit encapsulating His soul is everywhere.

Are spirits subject to entropy and decay?

The Bible indicates that spirit is eternal, i.e., it goes on forever and without end.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthian 4:16-18)

Therefore, spirit is not subject to decay or to entropy which is characteristic of everything in our physical world. This is in direct contradiction to the second law of thermodynamics: "all systems revert to minimum energy and maximum randomness" which means that everything in the physical world eventually falls apart and breaks down. But death was not part of the original creation and was a curse laid on the world as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve. As we are rooted in the physical world, this is hard for us to understand and accept, but so it is.

The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:16)

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it', cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you will eat bread till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:17-19)

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. (Romans 8:19-21)

Adam lived for a long time after this event – 930 years according to Genesis 5:5, but the process of decay leading to his death began at the point of his disobedience, and the Romans passage above stating that the world was “subjected to futility” at that point in time is further confirmation. Therefore, it seems that the curse of God included the introduction of entropy into the physical world.

Even harder to grasp is the concept of eternity – that time was created by God and spirits are outside of time.

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. (2 Peter 3:8)

In the physical world we are inexorably bound to time, so does eternity imply an “eternity of time” or is it another state altogether? That is a mystery which awaits the revelation of God.

The eternal aspect of the human spirit also means that the teachings of both reincarnation and spirit death (i.e., physical death is the end of existence) are false. This means that like it or not, every individual is eternal. God certainly has the power to destroy spirits, but there is no indication in the Bible that He would ever do so.

It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. (1 Peter 3:13)

Jesus said, “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!” (Luke 12:15)

Jesus said, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.” (John 5:28-29)

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.” (John 11:25)

The rich man died and was buried, and in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. (Luke 16:22-23)

And Jesus said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one. The enemy who sowed the tares is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:36-43)

In the words of C.S. Lewis:

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization – these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit – immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. ([Lewis, 1941](#))

How do body, soul, and spirit relate to each other?

If we consider that the soul of a person is his or her mind, personality, memory, and intelligence, and the spirit of a person is his or her eternal aspect, then the soul and the spirit must in some way be fused together, and in some fashion must be capable of independence from the body.

This raises the question of the relationship between the mind (i.e., the soul) and the brain. The nerve cells in our body constantly convey messages to our brain, and the messages are stored in the brain's neural network. When we learn things through listening, reading, and watching, the associated knowledge and experience rewires connections and stores information in the brain's neural network so that we can effectively recall what we have learned and use it as a basis for reasoning and future actions. The organization and purpose of cranial subsystems and the mechanisms for processing sensory input are currently understood to some degree and we know that brain activity is biochemical in nature, but we are far from understanding consciousness, recall, and all of the mechanisms employed in decision-making. Therefore, we have no idea of how the soul/mind is associated with this process, and how it could encapsulate all of the identity, intelligence, and memory maintained by the brain.

The reality of the soul/mind interconnection with the brain can possibly be demonstrated by the response of people who have experienced brain damage but were able to recover at least a portion of their identities and mental capabilities. In other words, even though their brains were damaged and they were unable to express themselves via their limbs or vocal cords (which are controlled by the brain), the content of their soul/mind was preserved because it presumably cannot be physically destroyed. The movie *Awakenings* was an example of this – when the neurotransmitter dopamine was administered to some catatonic mental patients their personality revived and they “came back to life,” albeit the revival was only temporary. Was this a purely physical thing – a temporary fix to the synaptic operation of their brains cells, or was it the ability for them to reconnect their mind/soul to a temporarily repaired brain? We have no way of knowing.

Personality is unique to each individual, and David Kiersey in his book *Please Understand Me II*, describes personality as having two components: temperament and character. According to Kiersey, there are four overarching types of temperament, which he names as the Guardian, the Artisan, the Idealist, and the Rationalist ([Kiersey, 1998](#)), and everyone is an admixture of those types. He indicates

that temperament is morally neutral and is our “mental hardware” – it is immutable, and even we cannot change it.

The character aspect of personality is our “mental software” – our behavior and moral nature. This area is under our control – we can choose how we will behave and can do so in moral or immoral ways. The Bible tells us that our character (what we believe and how we express our beliefs in behavior), is the key element in our eternal destiny:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

There is therefore a connection between faith, belief, and behavior:

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. (Ephesians 2:8)

You believe that God is one. You do well but the demons also believe, and shudder... What use is it, my brethren if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, 'You have faith and I have works'; I will show you my faith by my works... You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. (James 3:14-23)

With the assistance of the Holy Spirit, we can change our character:

If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7-9)

After death our body returns to its natural elements (carbon, water, etc.), but the soul and spirit separate from the body and return to God. Exactly where the soul and spirit reside after death is another mystery and may depend on our character in life.

Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:6-7)

What are soul and spirit made of?

Given the fact that both soul and spirit are non-physical, they are outside the realm of science. The Bible is not a science textbook, and it doesn't provide direct answers to many of the questions that we have. However, both the Bible and science provide some clues about the nature of soul and spirit.

The first clue is related to design. There is a principle of design, enunciated by Albert Einstein, that "Everything should be as simple as possible, but not simpler." Many things in nature are extremely complex, but the core building block of nature is the cell which has a design that is elegantly simple. The cells of all living things have DNA in their nucleus which is the source of information used to construct the entire organism. Naturalists who believe in universal common descent and the development of life from non-life see this as evidence for Darwinism, but perhaps a better explanation is that God, the ultimate designer, created DNA as a universal mechanism for everything in nature. ([Sorensen, 2020](#)). This is echoed in the Panasonic advertisement "So advanced it's simple."

The Greeks were the first to postulate the essential elements of nature – earth, air, fire, and water. It took a long time for science to determine that the design of matter and energy is much simpler than that and consists of collections of subatomic particles. For example, even though hydrogen is a gas and carbon is a solid, the difference between them is the number of protons in the nucleus of hydrogen vs. carbon atoms (one vs. six). Everything in nature consists of organized collections of atoms (i.e., molecules), and each atom is constructed of electrons, protons, and neutrons.

But what is an electron, what is a proton, and what is a neutron? In attempting to analyze these particles, scientists discovered that they are not solid little balls, which is how atoms had previously been conceptualized by Isaac Newton and prior researchers. It makes sense that the micro reality of nature would correspond directly to the macro level, so that the micro level is simply a minute version of what we see and touch. However, that is not the case – electrons and protons are not "particles," because under certain conditions they will behave like waves. This was the genesis of quantum theory and the understanding that matter at the visible level is vastly different than at the subatomic level.

Physicists eventually discovered many other subatomic entities such as photons, neutrinos, gluons, hadrons, leptons, mesons, and quarks. What is the underlying structure of all of these entities, and how do all of the forces of nature such as electromagnetism and gravity relate to them? Furthermore, how can a subatomic entity sometimes act like a particle, and sometimes like a wave? String theory has been developed to account for this behavior and is part of the effort to develop a "unified field theory" or a "theory of everything" – the holy grail of physics.

A theory of everything, final theory, ultimate theory, or master theory is a hypothetical single, all-encompassing, coherent theoretical framework of physics that fully explains and links together all physical aspects of the universe. Finding such a theory is one of the major unsolved problems in physics... Eventually a single explanatory framework, called "string theory", has emerged that intends to be the ultimate theory of the universe, or at least part of it... A Theory of Everything would unify all the fundamental interactions of nature: gravitation, strong interaction, weak interaction, and electromagnetism... But no theory to date is believed to be precisely accurate. Instead, physics has proceeded by a series of "successive approximations" allowing more and more accurate predictions over a wider and wider range of phenomena. Some physicists believe that it is therefore a mistake to confuse theoretical models with the true nature of reality and hold that the series of approximations will never terminate in the "truth." ([Sharma, 2024](#))

String theory states that all matter and energy is composed of collections of minute vibrating “strings” each of which is around a “Planck length” in size. A Planck length, named after the physicist Max Planck, is thought to be the smallest length of anything in existence – a distance of 1×10^{-35} meters, or about a million, billion, billion times smaller than an inch. To provide a comparison, if an atom were the size of the earth, a string would be the size of a grain of sand. If an object could somehow be smaller than a Planck length it is said to lose its “locality” – one of the many mysteries of quantum physics that mere mortals can’t understand.

The concept of strings answers a number of problems in physics but is currently purely theoretical. Assuming that strings exist as the theory states, we have never seen and don’t know what they look like, and we currently have no way of manipulating or analyzing them, so the term “string” is simply a theoretical paradigm explaining how subatomic entities could behave both as particles and as waves. Each type of string supposedly vibrates in a specific pattern or frequency which provides the characteristics of the subatomic entity (i.e., electron, proton, neutron, photon, etc.) which is constructed from them. Furthermore, there are strict rules, yet to be explicated, which delineate how strings of one type can combine with others.

All the fundamental particles from classical physics and their masses and charges are described by different vibrational modes of a string in string theory, just like the string of a fiddle can produce different notes. ([Lehnert, 2025](#))

Therefore, at the lowest level of physical reality there is an elegant simplicity that underlies all of the incredible complexity built on top of it. Like DNA discussed above, this also has the fingerprint of God. It should cause us to stop and marvel at God’s awesomeness along with Paul the apostle:

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor? Who has first given to Him that it shall be repaid?” For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things, and to Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)

If the above is not enough to blow one’s mind, string theory also posits that there are multiple dimensions – six or more in addition to our four dimensions of length, width, height, and time. These additional dimensions are said to be “wrapped” in a Planck length distance of other matter, and they may be “portals” that allow rapid movement across the universe. The nearest stars to our sun are in the Alpha Centauri system, around four light years away, which means that if we could travel at the speed of light (700 million miles per hour), it would take four years to reach that star system. But by moving through a dimension, the travel to Alpha Centauri could be instantaneous, and this could be the way that spirit beings move through the universe. They do not need air to breathe and are apparently imperious to extremes of heat and cold.

Alternatively, spirits may exist at a level of reality entirely below the physical world. Just as we don’t understand eternity, so we also don’t understand spirit – both are mysteries that awaits the revelation of God. The fact that we are only starting to unravel physical things and are completely clueless about spirit should humble us before the One who designed everything and then brought it into being.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:9-12)

So what are soul and spirit made of? We herein propose that both soul and spirit consist of perhaps different versions or smaller components of strings that do not have the entropy and decay associated with our physical world which was a consequence of the fall, and that God was the engineer who designed this.

Jesus rose from the dead, and the Bible teaches that one day in the future we will also be given new bodies that will last for eternity, similar to how angels currently exist. The Bible states that angels, i.e., spirit beings, can assume human form, as in the story of Abraham meeting with the angels of God in Genesis 18; they both talked and ate with Abraham. The demonic sons of God engaged in sexual intercourse with human women in Genesis 6, so spirit beings can apparently assume a body if they wish to do so, and perhaps we will have the same capability. What will our future bodies be like? Will we be able to “fly” and travel through space, and will we have the capability of becoming visible and invisible at will as angels currently can? At this point we can only take the hints of Scripture and imagine:

For they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (Luke 20:36)

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. (1 John 3:2)

But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.” (Matthew 22:29-32)

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Corinthians 15:42-48)

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:50-57)

Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy. “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render

to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:11-12)

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. (Revelation 22:16-17)

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