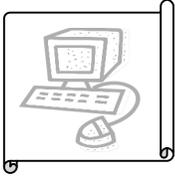# The Body and Soul of a Computer

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.
(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

The Original Design

Each computer is manufactured according to the plan of the designer for the structure and electronics of the machine, including design of both the hardware and software.

The Creator's Design

It was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalms 139:13-14)

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. (Jer 1:5)

The Hardware

Hardware is the physical structure and machinery of the computer. The thing you touch and see, that takes up physical space. Without software, the hardware is just a pile of plastic and metal.

Our Body (External Nature)

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. (Luke 12:22-23)

The Software

Software is the internal programming of the computer. You interact with software; but it is not a "thing" -- software exists only in the electronic memory. There is no access to software apart from the hardware.

Our Soul (Internal Nature)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits. (Psalms 103:1-2)

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul … (Deuteronomy 11:18)

The Power

A computer runs on electrical power. Without power, neither the hardware or software functions. Power comes from outside the computer itself (through a cord, or charged batteries). Disconnected from the device, the power returns to its source.

The Spirit (God's Own Power)

The LORD said, "My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh. (Genesis 6:3)

It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. (Jn 6:63)

The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath [spirit] returns to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

External Memory Disks

Software and data can be stored on disks, separate from the computer. The disk itself is not the software, but the place where the software is temporarily located. Though disks are distinct entities, they require a functioning computer to operate.

A Spirit/Shade (Our Dead Existence)

The shades below tremble, the waters and their inhabitants. Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering. (Job 26:5-6)

The dead do not live; shades do not rise -- because you have punished and destroyed them, and wiped out all memory of them. (Isaiah 26:14)

Internet Assistance

For handling problems with the operation of hardware and software, access to assistance from the manufacturer. Anti-virus software should be downloaded regularly.

Prayer and Faith in God

I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. (Psalms 16:8-9)

Different States of Existence and Operation of a Computer

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
(Matthew 10:28)

None

Before a computer is manufactured it does not exist, except in the plan of its designer. This is true of both hardware and software.

Non-Existence

Human beings are finite mortals and did not exist prior to our creation by God as individual beings. Only God, the Creator, is immortal. [see 1 Timothy 6:16]

Functional

Upon the manufacture of the computer, its set-up, and connection to the power, the hardware and software operating together make a functioning computer.

Life

Upon our creation, the substance of our physical form (body) and our internal consciousness (soul) is given life by God (the Holy Spirit). Apart from the Spirit, there is no life. [see Job 33:4]

Updates

Increased functionality and data is added to a computer through use, by manual input or by downloading from other sources.

Experience

As people learn and grow they accumulate skills, memories, and experiences, which become a part of who they are. [see Proverbs 19:20-21]

Sleep Mode

A computer may be put in to sleep mode, when not in use, temporarily turning of its interactive functions. Some level in internal activity may take place in this mode, internal to the computer itself. Most computers are able turn themselves back on from sleep mode at preset times.

Sleep (Unconsciousness)

Our bodies and minds require rest, built into us by God as a 'sabbath' requirement. During normal sleep, we enter into a temporarily unconscious state, during which we are not aware. Some limited brain activity (dreams, etc.) can still take place. Sleep is a temporary state. People are able to wake from sleep on their own and return to normal functioning. [see John 11:12-13]

Shut Down Mode

Shut down is similar to sleep mode, except that all power is turned off to the computer. The external hardware still exists, but the software in non-functional. From this state, a computer must be completed re-booted, by restoring the power.

Death

Death is often described in Scripture as similar to sleep, in that it is a cessation of function. However, death is the absence of life (the removal of God's life-giving Spirit and breath). People do not return from death except by external means, as in the cases where Jesus raised people from the dead. [see John 11:38-44]

Disposal

When a computer no longer functions, or is unable to be re-booted, it is retired and disposed of. Care should be taken in disposing of a computer properly. Back-up disks containing a record of data and software can be stored in a secure location.

Burial

When a person ceases all life, and is unable to be resuscitated, that person is dead. Those who die are buried or given other funerary rights, according custom and good order. While the person no longer exists as a living being (body/soul), God maintains the memory of those who die. [see Job 14:13]

Recycling/Software Restore

The raw materials of non-functioning computer may be used to manufacture a new device. If the record of previous data is downloaded to the new hardware, hardware and software can function together again, often better than before.

Resurrection

Resurrection is a complete recreation and restoration of our life. God will create a new eternal body from the dust of our former existence, and our inner nature will be likewise renewed. Resurrection is not a simple transfer of consciousness or 'transmigration of the soul', but a new creation by God. [see 1 Cor. 15:42-57]