

What is a Soul Project?

How is learning science at Taylor University different from learning science at a secular college or university? Do cells divide differently in a Christian than in a non-Christian? Does light somehow travel faster or slower around a Christian? Are rocks identified differently by Christians than they are by non-Christians? Clearly these are silly questions. The world works the way that God has designed it to work. The difference is not in the content.

How is learning science at Taylor University different from learning science at a secular college or university? The answer is one of worldview. The difference is **how** we look at the material. Christians have always recognized that the Bible teaches that God (all three Persons of the Trinity) made the creation, that He made it out of nothing, and that He made it for Himself. Furthermore, God sustains His creation and that creation reveals something about Him to all people. I encourage you to read [Taylor's Mission Statement and Purposes of the University](#). We take these items seriously. We genuinely want you to grow in your love toward Jesus Christ, toward your neighbor, and toward God's creation.

How does this apply to my science class? What in the world does science have to do with Christianity? The answer is, "Studying science has everything to do with Christianity." After all, we are studying His handiwork!

What is a "soul project?" Have you learned that there is a big difference in learning *about* God, and learning to *know God personally*? The purpose of a soul project is to give you an opportunity to get to know God better. The content of a soul project typically includes reflection upon scripture and prayer as it relates to the content of the course and to your spiritual development. Personally, I do not want any science class that you take to be simply "jumping through a hoop" on your way to graduation. I genuinely want you to fall more in love with your Creator and with His creation. I want you, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interact with Scripture and with the material that we discuss in class. That is the purpose of a soul project in a science class. After all, when you study the creation, you are studying His handiwork!

A word or two about "revelation." What do I mean when I write sentences like, "Allow God's Spirit to guide your thinking" or "Allow yourself to be silent and yielded to the Holy Spirit." It may be easier to say what I do **not** mean by these sentences. I do not mean that I am asking you to ask God for **new** revelation. In other words, I am not asking you to ask Him for extra-Biblical revelation or revelation that is outside the Bible. I am not asking you for something that conflicts with Scripture or something that goes beyond Scripture. I **am** asking you to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work. He **illuminates** us. (e.g., John 16:13 (NIV) But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.) Has it ever happened to you? You've read a section of Scripture many times. Then you read it again and you notice something that you've never seen before? The Holy Spirit has just illuminated the passage for you. He also **prompts** us. (e.g., John 14:26 (NIV) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.) There have been many times in my life where He has prompted me to do or to say something. Of course, we must always check things like this out with Scripture. The Holy Spirit also **convicts** us (and the world.) (e.g., John 16:8 (NIV) When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment) I'm betting that you already know this if you know Jesus.

A few tips up front:

- Be honest.
- Be real. I get a lot of soul projects where students are parroting “American Christianity” or giving Christian clichés. Yes. Many of you have learned them well. This is not what a soul project is about. Drop the cultural Christianity. Drop the clichés. Give honest, wrestling-with-God answers. Interact with God Himself.
- Soul projects are designed to open your heart to the truth in what God is trying to teach you.
- Expect and want nothing except to know God and His truth.
- Do not measure the experience by how it “feels,” but by whether or not you are open to the truth that God’s Holy Spirit is trying to teach you.
- Realize that God is with you, even though you may not “feel” that He is.
- As you do a soul project, God’s Spirit may reveal sin to you. If He does, then openly admit your sin to Him. Thank Him for revealing this sin to you. After all, this is one way that He works to conform us to the image of His Son. Ask Him for forgiveness and thank Him for giving it. (1 John 1:8,9 NIV “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”)
- Are you experiencing “noise” as you are trying to do a soul project? If so, then it may be best for you to stop the soul project temporarily and to explore (with the Lord) what you’re thinking. Don’t see it as a distraction. Maybe the Lord is trying to teach you another lesson. Continue with your soul project later.
- If you think that you cannot do this project, then stop. Meditate on Scripture. Talk with me about the issue.

How do I do a soul project? First of all, **this page, “What is a Soul Project?” is not a soul project.** The soul project(s) that you will do for this class is(are) listed on your syllabus and elsewhere in Blackboard. Each will have its own instructions.

Start a soul project by copying the following header onto the top right corner of your page:

Name:
Box:
Soul Project Title:
Date(s) Worked:
Time Started: **Ended:**
Total Time Spent:

How will I grade your soul project? Most of your grade will be an evaluation of the quality of your interaction with God’s Spirit. I do not want you to tell me what you think that I want to hear. I want you to listen to God’s Spirit as He speaks to you. I want you to tell me about your soul’s conversation with Him. Of course, each is designed to relate to the content of our course. Another part of your grade will be given for the amount of time that you worked on this project. You will not receive full credit if you did not work for the full time. A third of your grade will be given for how well you expressed yourself mechanically. Lastly, your grade will be lowered if you do not include all material that was supposed to be included with your soul project.