

SOUL VIGOR

We were introduced to the doctrinal concept of SOUL VIGOR while studying the obituary of Abraham. **“And these are all the years of Abraham’s ‘s life that he lived, one hundred and seventy-five years. And Abraham breathed his last and died in an ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people.” (Gen.25:7-8/ NAS)**

Gideon’s obituary read differently – **“And Gideon the son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezzrites.” (Judges 8:32)**

What was missing between the obituaries of Abraham and Gideon?

The Hebrew word for satisfied with life is sabea. Other English translations of sabea are full of years (NIV), contended (Torah), and satisfied with life (NAS).

Soul vigor is the doctrinal concept of sabea. Soul vigor refers to the believer possessing the spiritual capacity to be satisfied with the life that God has willed for you. Therefore, it is called Soul Vigor rather than life vigor.

The contrast between the obituary of Abraham and that of Gideon is reminder that believers can reach a good old age **without** satisfaction with life.

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of SOUL VIGOR.
As spiritual advancing believers, our desire should be to die in a ripe old age and satisfied with life.**

- 1. At the third bible conference on the Abrahamic Covenant, the Lord instructed Abraham on the importance of the doctrine of Soul Vigor (Gen.12: 1-3) First; (Gen.13: 14-17) Second; (Gen 15:1-21) Third).**

“And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace (promise of dying grace), you shall be buried at a good old age.” (Gen.15: 15; 2 Cor.5: 6-8)

Abraham obituary shows that God kept His promise and gave more grace – Abraham died in a good old age, an old man satisfied with life (sabea) soul vigor.

More grace is attached to super grace capacity for blessings in life – But He gives MORE GRACE. That is why the Scriptures say: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” (James 4:6, 11; 5:10-11) Job

- 2. Gideon lived to a good old age but without satisfied with life (sabea) and MORE GRACE.**

What happened to Gideon after the great victory over the Midianites that caused him to fail spiritually in the latter years of his life? (Read Judges 8:27,30-31, 33-35).

He failed to continue developing his spiritual capacity for God and life according to God’s will. He lost his spiritual momentum with the Lord in the latter years of his life.

Two doctrinal principles: It is one thing to reach a good old age and quite another to reach it (sabea) satisfied with life.

It is one thing to have lived for the Lord in the younger years but not to live in the older years of one's life for the Lord.

3. Let me remind you of four super grace believer' obituaries listed in the Bible with who died satisfied with life (sabea). Why isn't Gideon listed with them?

- Abraham – Gen.25:7-8 (age listed 175)
- Isaac – Gen.35:28-29 (180)
- Job – Job 42:17 (140)
- David (1 Chron.23: 1; 29:28 (age not listed).

To be satisfied with life, you must learn to become satisfied with God's will for your Life (Matt.26: 39).

These believers faced death the same way they faced life – satisfied with Christ – “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Phil.1:21)

“The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like the cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.” (Ps.92:12-15)

4. David exemplified the doctrinal concept of sabea (soul vigor) as a youthful believer when he explain to King Saul how he would defeat Goliath (1 Sam.17).

“When a lion or a bear came out and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by the beard and struck him and killed him. (1 Sam.17:34-35)

“The Lord delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of the Philistines.” (17:37) Even though David had a mid-life crisis, he regained his walk with the Lord during the latter years. He is listed by name and not by comment in Heb.11: 32 (Hall of Fame).

In case you think this was just youthful wishing and not soul vigor, let me introduce you to an aged Caleb with the same soul vigor (Josh.14; Num.13).

“And now behold, the Lord has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me out; as my strength is now, for war and for going and coming in. Now then, give me this hill country about which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out as the Lord has spoken.” (Josh.14:10-12)

5. Soul vigor is the result of reaching super grace spiritual maturity and maintaining it until dying grace.

Four stages of spiritual growth that develops Soul vigor: **spiritual birth** (1 Pet.1: 23), **spiritual baby** (Heb.5: 13, 1 Pet.2: 2) **milk stage**, **spiritual adult** (Heb.5: 14, 2 Pet.3: 18) **meat stage** and **super grace adult** (James 4:6; Eph.4: 13; 2 Pet.1: 3-11) **soul vigor stage**.

Another example of soul vigor in the life of a super grace believer is when Abraham offered Isaac (James 2:21-24; Gen.22). Soul vigor produces an energetic force of spiritual growth, strength, and outlook in CWL like Caleb (Phil4: 11-14).