

Preface

In BAITIANGONG, we believe and accept that the death of a person is only the demise of his/her physical body, as the soul does not die but merely leaves the physical body. The phrase used by Xian Sheng Chew Choon Ming “You die to Live” aptly described that when a person dies, the soul leaves the body and will continue to exist in another spiritual plane such as : Heaven, Hell, Limbo or Earth Plane. Below are some of the determining factors of the soul’s destination:

(A) Those who prayed to the CREATOR with mind, body and soul will have the opportunity to go to Heaven to enjoy eternal life.

(B) If you commits more sins than good deeds in your lifetime, even for a believer of BAITIANGONG, your soul will lose the chance for an eternal life in Heaven. The soul will then go to Hell to undergo punishment and after the sentences are over, it will then be reincarnated to another human body to undergo another round of examination in life.

(C) The plane of Limbo is a spiritual realm for those who has done a lot of good deeds or does not commit sins in their lifetime but did not have the opportunity to pray to GOD. For example: a disabled person may lead a relatively simple life and does not undergo much examination in life; they neither do good nor commit sins. Upon their demise, these souls are likely to go to the plane of Limbo where they will have many opportunities to realize the existence of GOD and pray to GOD. When a soul accepts and pray to GOD, it will be given a place in Heaven. However, if this soul still does not accept the existence of the CREATOR after a definite period of time, it will then be reincarnated to another human body to undergo another Vicious Cycle of Reincarnation. Such a soul however does not need to go to Hell to be punished.

(D) When a person commits suicide, his soul becomes a wondering soul and it will lingers about the earthly plane to suffer for a long period of time. After an indefinite period of suffering, the soul will be led to Hell to undergo punishment for any sins that he/she may have committed during his/her lifetime. Thereafter, the soul will be reincarnated to another human body and again undergo another Vicious Cycle of Reincarnation.

In BAITIANGONG, our main purpose is to save souls and to leave the Vicious Cycle of Reincarnation. Xian Sheng had taught us that only those who pray to GOD with their mind, body and soul will have the opportunity to enjoy eternal life in Heaven.

Wearing full white during obsequies

In layman's perception, white represents purity and elegance. For the brothers and sisters in BAITIANGONG, white garments are worn in all the spiritual activities as it symbolizes a state of enlightenment and at the same time it is hoped that the followers will carry a sense of virtue and righteousness.

Xian Sheng taught us to pray to GOD and he led us to recapture the ancient Chinese funeral culture of attiring in white. Through Xian Sheng's teaching, we understand the importance of wearing full white during obsequies. Whether it is the followers of BAITIANGONG or the deceased's family members, attiring in white and kneeling down to pray to GOD to bless the soul of the deceased will also remind the deceased's soul to kneel down to pray to GOD.

We believe in the existence of the soul and in BAITIANGONG our ultimate purpose is to save souls. Not only we strive to save our own soul; we also hope to save the souls of others. Our physical body houses our soul to undergo various examinations in life on this earthly plane. When a person dies, his soul leaves the body and continues to exist in another realm.

Through Xian Sheng's explanation, we understand that the soul can see the people around him, however most of us cannot see the presence of his soul. Souls that exist in the spiritual realms that only possesses a certain colour is only able to see objects of that same colour. For example, in a green spiritual realm, souls can only see objects that are green in colour. White is a combination of all the colour spectrum, hence all visible colours in the spectrum can be reflected off the white object. By attiring in white, we hope that regardless of the colour of that realm, souls from that realm will be able to see us praying to GOD and they will in turn be guided to follow us and kneel down to pray to GOD. This is one of the main purpose of attiring in white clothing.

During the obsequies, brothers and sisters who are dressed in white take turns to kneel down and pray to GOD to bless the soul of the deceased; to seek forgiveness for the sins that may have been committed by the deceased during his/her lifetime in the hope that the soul will be accorded a place in Heaven.

For the soul to be able to kneel down and pray to GOD, this will be invaluable. Xian Sheng explained that when a deceased's soul knows how to kneel down and pray to GOD, he will receive forgiveness from GOD, and this soul will come to realize that he has passed away and will be able to leave the earthly plane to journey to another realm.

We live to go through an examination in life and we die to live

In BAITIANGONG, we believe in and accept the reality of souls. Soul is interlocked with our physical body to undergo various experiences and trials in every phase of life.

As a believer of BAITIANGONG we are unwavering in embracing the principle of 'We live to go through an examination in life and we die to live'. Throughout our examination journey in this mundane life, we may assume various roles and responsibilities in our life cycles. In ancient Confucianism, the relationships of every individual in the society had been distinctively defined, for instance, between ruler and subject, husband and wife, parent and children, amongst siblings and acquaintances etc.

In the course of undergoing our examination in life, our competency and fidelity in the role we play are put to test as every role is beset with its underlying challenges. For instance, how well we have performed in parenting our children? As a child, have we duly repaid our filial piety? Have we fulfilled our obligatory constitutional duties as a citizen? Are we a caring and attentive person to our siblings? Are we a mean employer or a diligent and an honest employee? Have we been faithful and tolerant to our spouse? Have we ever fostered mutual trust and care in friendship? Most of all, whilst we are bestowed with the highest intelligence of all being and incessantly treasuring and benefit from the provisions of mother's nature, have we ever curious to whom the abundance of riches we shall attribute to? Do we even care to be concerned with if the CREATOR of the mother nature truly exist and would we volitionally acknowledge the ever-present CREATOR, feeling gratitude and earnestly express our highest respect towards the CREATOR?

Trials in life are never confined merely to relationship but also in times of adversities and tribulations, likewise the glamorous moment in our prime, we are nevertheless not exempted from a different form of trial. Hence, irrespective of poverty, wealth, health, sickness, happiness or sorrow, the ultimate test to our inherent character is for us to make our own choices given the manifold of conditions in the surroundings.

We know life is full of choices, every decision made will lead to a different path in consequences and encounters. Every encounter is a sequential trial condition or consequential environment resulting from the choices we made. This is where our life trial and test are taking place and continual in such an interwoven relationship of choices and consequences. Unknown to many, our deeds be it good or evil committed during the various trials and encounters ordain our destiny in the afterlife. Merits gained from good deeds may save our soul from punishments in the hereafter. Our souls may attain a heavenly plane, on the contrary, if we are saddled with heavy sins, our souls will end up in a negative plane - Hell, and we still remain entrapped in the Vicious Cycle of Reincarnation. In short, our spiritual success or failure in the present life time will determine the destination of our souls.