

The Spirit of God

Key verses

- “It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63
- “Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” Psa.139:7
- “But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, and of justice and might...” Mic.3:8

Holy spirit power

- “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power...” Acts 10:38

If God sends forth His Spirit to create (Psa.104:30), and has also used it to anoint mortals with power and understanding, then obviously this Spirit is His power and not a third part of a godhead. God's Spirit power “overshadowed” the virgin Mary and she conceived the Son of God (Luke 1:35). See also Isa.11:2.

How God uses His spirit power

By His Eternal Holy Spirit Power, God created the Heavens and the Earth (Isa.45:18), and sustains all living creatures (Psa.104). He is actively guiding the affairs of the nations (Dan.4:17,25,32), and will continue to do so leading up to the establishment of His Son's Kingdom here on earth. Future rulers in this Kingdom known as, “**saints of the Most High**” (Dan.7:18,22,27), are being called out of the nations and are otherwise referred to as, “**a people for His Name**” (Acts 15:14).

By His Holy Spirit Power, God answers the prayers of His saints, helping them in all their daily needs (Matt.6:31-34), and uses His angels to protect them (Heb.1:14; Psa.103:20).

Why ‘wind’ or ‘breath’?

- “...He breathed on them, and said to them, 'receive the Holy Spirit.'” John 20:22
- “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:2
- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God* (God breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Tim.3:16

God uses words meaning “breath” or “wind” in both Testaments to refer to His Spirit Power and His “**God breathed**” inspiration of the writers of Scripture.

When you think about it, wind is an excellent symbol of **life giving spirit power**, because wind is needed for many life giving needs for our mortal life, including pollination, the bringing of rain and general air circulation on the planet. The symbolic connection between wind and spirit was evident at Pentecost.

* Some handy Strong's Concordance numbers to note

“ruach” translated, ‘air, blast, breath, spirit, tempest, wind’: 7307 O.T.

“pneuma” translated, ‘life, spirit, spiritual, mind’: 4151 N.T.

“theo-pneustos” translated, ‘given by inspiration of God’: 2315 N.T.

Spirit ‘breath’

- “You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath (ruach), they die and return to the dust. You send forth Your Spirit (ruach), they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.” Psa.104:29-30
- “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit (ruach) to God who gave it.” Eccles. 12:7
- “...to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath (ruach) of life.” Gen.6:17

Above are some samples of many verses where the Hebrew word “ruach” can simply mean the **breath animals or humans need for survival**. The first verses quoted above from Psa.104 actually use the Hebrew word ruach in two of several senses that it appears in Scripture. Firstly to describe the “breath” needed for survival and secondly referring to God's creative Spirit power.

A spiritual state of mind

- “The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” Isa.11:2
- “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.” Isa.61:1
- “...The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63

It was said of king Saul that he had an “evil spirit” (1Sam.18:10), and of Ahab having a “sad” or “sullen” spirit (1Kings 21:5), both these cases referring to a state of mind. We still use the word “spirit” today to refer to a state of mind or enthusiasm in a particular direction, sometimes referred to as, “getting into the spirit of things”, or alternatively a person may be described as being, “mean spirited”. Sometimes “Holy Spirit” refers to a **godly state of spiritual health** (Rom.14:17; Psa.51:10-11). The Apostle Paul contrasts the “**mind of the spirit**” and the “**mind of the flesh**” (Rom.8:5-7), the former being a person whose mind is in tune to what God requires and is also known as “**the spirit of Christ**” (Rom.8:9), and the latter being a mind devoid of Godly education with no desire to serve Him, and known as “**the carnal mind**” (Rom.8:6-7). Jesus said that His words were, “**spirit and life**” (John 6:63), because the word spirit in Scripture goes hand in hand with a godly state of mind. Isaiah spoke of this when referring to certain spiritual characteristics of God's Son (see verses quoted above). This explains Jesus' comment:

- “God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

The above verse from John is often misquoted to try and prove that God has no substance, but this is not the case.

See sheet one and Matt.5:8; John 5:37.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.