

HOUSE of WISDOM
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Understanding a Spirit
(John 14-16, Part 1.1)

Strong's number for the Hebrew word for spirit is h7307, and the verb root is h7306. The Hebrew parent root of h7306 is rh (??), which action is travel and the concrete meaning is path. The child root is rwh (???), which action is refresh and the concrete meaning is wind. On a hot, humid summer day, a cool breeze is refreshing, as the spirit (words) of a person can be refreshing: Job 32:20: I will speak so that I may be refreshed (h7304); I will open my lips and answer. Just as the wind follows a prescribed path and reveals the coming season, God has a prescribed path that reveals the way of salvation by His spirit: John 14:6: Jesus said to him, I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The main Hebrew word for spirit is ruwach (h7307), and the main Greek word is pneuma (g4151), with a combined reference of 763 times. A secondary Hebrew word is neshama (h5397), appearing 24 times. The primary meaning of all of these words is the same: a current of air, and so, translated at times as breath or wind. All can be used of animals, of mankind, of the Father (God), the Son (Jesus) and of evil/unclean spirits. Pneuma is translated as ghost 91 times and in this study will always be rendered as spirit.

For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? (1Corinthians 2:11). The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity (Proverbs 18:14). If our spirit resides within, and sustains our infirmity, then it must be unclean.

1. What is the spirit of mankind?

Exodus 6:9: when a person has anguish, where does it reside? (Several translations leave out the word "spirit")

Deuteronomy 2:30: notice how spirit & heart are parallel, indicating similarity, like "rain & snow" are similar; cf Psalm 51:10

Psalm 77:6: We commune with ourselves in thoughts (mind) & feelings (heart); cf Daniel 5:20

{Thoughts produce feelings, feelings lead to action, action repeated over time become habits, habits form character, character determines one's eternal destination}

1a. Proverbs 20:27: How does man's spirit allow God to search the mind/heart?

Matthew 15:11 (belly - Proverbs 18:8 KJV)

{Breath could be used here in lieu of spirit. The inference is words out of the man's mouth from his thoughts.}

For so says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, and His name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, even with the contrite and humble of spirit; to make live the spirit of the humble and to make live the heart of the contrite ones (Isaiah 57:15 LITV). (note: the spirit can be contrite & humble, or proud - Daniel 5:20)

2. How does God make alive the spirit & heart? 2Corinthians 3:2-3; Job 32:8 (inspiration = breath or spirit)

{It is by the spirit or breath of the living God, usually through another person, that truth gives spiritual life. We see it in others by the words they speak & how they act toward others.}

3. How does God's spirit write on a person's heart? Ezekiel 2:1-2; Proverbs 1:23; 2Samuel 23:2; cf Job 15:12-13; 26:4

{cp Acts 2:2, 4 with Luke 24:44-45 think breath of Jesus - John 20:22; idioms: don't breathe a word; hardly have time to breathe, or take a breath; breathe down someone's neck; breathe a sigh of relief}

Read Ephesians 4:22-24 & Colossians 3:9-10:

4. Where and how does spiritual renewal of a person take place? Ephesians 4:23 (where); Colossians 3:10 (how, image)

4a. Who changes us into the Creator's image? 2Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:19

Read Ephesians 4:4-6:

5. Who is the one God? Who is the one Lord? 1Corinthians 8:5-7a

{notice that there is no mention of a third individual or third God. Eternal life is knowing two individuals - only the Father & the Son, John 17:3.}

5a. There is only one Spirit, what is it? John 6:63

{In question 3 above, the spirit enters by words spoken; words give knowledge, understanding. Connect John 6:63 with John 5:24 & it can be seen that Jesus was referring to "words of eternal life."}

5b. Based on 5a, whose is the one Spirit? Matthew 10:19-20; cp Mark 13:11; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

{Jesus only spoke what the Father told him, John 12:49-50, commandments which are "life everlasting" - i.e. life eternal; and his words are spirit. The one Spirit is that of the Father, which will also be in believers.}

6. What is the pledge of our inheritance & how is it administered? Ephesians 1:9-14 (pledge);
2Corinthians 1:21-22 (how)
(Last part of verse 13 reads: you were sealed with the Spirit, the promise of the Holy [one])

Note: Jesus often referred to himself in the third person as “the son of man” John 16:13. I am inclined to think the Holy Spirit as referring to the Father in the third person. The cross was a consummation of Christ having received the fullness of the Father’s spirit, Acts 2:32-33, which he poured out at Pentecost on those in the upper room. It is by the spirit of the Father that Jesus is one with Him, and believers become one with the Father & Son (John 17:21-22) by receiving the spirit of the truth from Jesus.

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