



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Various aspects of God's Spirit in the Old and New Testament.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# **Various Aspects of God's Spirit**

**In**

**The Old and New Testament.**

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## **Topics.**

- The Lord's Spirit in the New Testament.
- The Holy Spirit.
- The language of personification.
- God speaking through Scripture.
- The glory of Christian salvation.
- God's word coming to the human mind.
- The ugliness of sin.
- The Lord's Spirit in the Old Testament.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The first section of this study begins by giving brief description of the Spirit of God and various overviews of different aspects of the Holy Spirit and the human spirit and what it embraces. In the second section it looks at what the Spirit meant in the Old Testament.

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## **THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **The Spirit of God can be defined as:**

- God in effective action and communication.
- God's holy intelligence, God's holy character and God's holy personality.
- God's power and personality extending their influence to touch the creation in a variety of ways.
- God's energy, inspiring human beings to perform extraordinary feats of valour.
- God endowing people with special artistic skill or miraculous powers.
- God communicating divine truth.
- God's vitalizing inspiring energy.
- God's Holy intelligence revealed and transmitted through Christ.
- God's holy nature, God's holy temperament.
- God in effective action and communication.
- God acting or imparting that part of his nature to his people.

- God enabling believers to achieve and accomplish His plans and purposes for history and for their own personal life.
- God's intelligence revealed, heart to heart to those who seek him and his truth.
- God's power, knowledge, wisdom and His Holy intelligence.
- God's truth, character and disposition.
- God's holy plans purposed in His heart and God's holy power.
- God influencing the heart and mind by inspiration, revelation and love.
- God's (dunamis) power in action.

God's power and his Spirit is manifest in the course of affairs, by its influence upon Christians who are productive in developing the fruits of the Spirit and manifest love toward those who could be considered their enemies and are a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ in his global body and his worldwide Kingdom.

**NOTE:** the title, "The Holy Spirit" contains within its meaning and use, the sum total of all the above that is extended and imparted to the believer in the centre of their inner most being, heart and mind.

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## THE LORD WILL POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT

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I will pour out my Spirit can be explained in the following ways:

- I will open my heart to you.
- I will make my mind and my knowledge and my wisdom known to you.
- I will make my mind, truth, ways, plans and purposes known to you.
- I will give you the ability to perform various types of miracles.
- I will give your mind and heart spiritual strength.
- I will convict you of sin.
- I will comfort you in times of suffering.
- I will make the plans and purposes of my heart known to you.
- I will enlighten your mind to my words and my will.

God said, "I will pour out my Spirit" persons are not poured out. God does not give a portion of a person, but he does give a measure of his mind and His power. The reason and purpose God pours out His Spirit is to make his will and his words known and to grant the provision of His limitless energy. God's power and God's Spirit when acting as His agency to accomplish His purposes is not His essence, it is not who He is, but a portion of His Spirit. God's power is the agency he uses to influence those He calls and is manifest by creation, by miracles and by its influence upon the faithful that are productive in achieving His plans and purposes in the world and in the church.

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## GOD'S SPIRIT AND TRUSTING IN CHRIST

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Through God's Spirit those trusting in Christ are invited to:

- Share in God's divine plans and purposes and become holy and eternal as God is holy and eternal.
- Be privy to the secret counsel, which God longs to share with those in Christ.
- Intellectually and emotionally share in the intimacy of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Participate in God's divine activities and gifts and share in God's secret counsel which He longs to reveal to those who love the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Live in an intimate and personal relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The intimacy of the Lord is for those who are faithful, it is to them God will make known His divine plans and purposes.

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT

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The Holy Spirit in the language of the Jews, the Holy Spirit means divine inspiration. The Holy Spirit of God is personal; it is God's vitalizing, inspiring energy it is His power, wisdom and knowledge of divine truth and His holy intelligence and personality imparted to the believer's heart and mind. The Holy Spirit is not a person, but God's Spirit it is that Spirit of righteousness and that enabling Spirit that gives God's servants the power and gifts to accomplish God's plans and purposes, and God's will for their lives. The Holy Spirit is personified as a person in the same way that the Bible personifies wisdom as a woman with children and Jerusalem as the mother of Israel.

No one reading the Bible ever thinks that wisdom is a literal woman or that Jerusalem is a literal mother everyone understands that the author is simply using the language of personification. Yet when the same language is used for the Holy Spirit it is automatically assumed by many that the Holy Spirit is a spiritual male like being with his own mind who is an individual person and entity separated from God even though they never think of wisdom as a literal woman or Jerusalem as a literal mother when the same language of personification is used. The Holy Spirit of God is the righteous power of God enabling a person to achieve God's eternal plans and purposes concerning salvation and eternal life.

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## THE LANGUAGE OF PERSONIFICATION

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The Bible personifies:

- Jerusalem as a mother with children.
- Wisdom and patience as a woman.
- The grave as a hungry mouth that is never satisfied.

The Greeks commonly use personification in their language, especially if the object being spoken about is the character of a person (this is one of the reasons it is known as a romantic language). The Holy Spirit is personified in the Bible as a person, because it is God's Spirit. No one believes the grave has a mouth or that wisdom and patience are actually women, so why do we think the Holy Spirit is a literal person, just because it is in some places personified in the same way as wisdom and Jerusalem? For further information concerning this, see the title:

- Personification, in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## BEING IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

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Being in the Spirit of Christ could be defined as being in the likeness of Christ, living in attitude and lifestyle as he did, it means being humble as Christ was humble and manifesting the fruits of the Spirit showing love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness to others as Christ did.

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## GOD SPEAKING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

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The Bible states all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). This means all Scripture is spoken by God. It means all Scripture came to the mind of man by the inspiration and influence of God's Spirit. In the mind of New Testament writers any passage of Scripture was seen as being spoken by God, even though it was spoken by humans as the following Scriptures show:

- David himself, in the Holy Spirit declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" (Mark 12:36).

David spoke this by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice (Heb. 3:7).

Moses spoke this, but the writer of Hebrews says the Holy Spirit said it.

- The Sovereign Lord through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot in vain?" (Acts 4:25).

Paul says the Sovereign LORD spoke by the Holy Spirit through David. The principal is that what Scripture states is really what God has spoken or said. This is true irrespective of whether or not the particular passage cited are ascribe to God or are the statements of the human author. The Holy Spirit used the writers of Scripture to pass through them the message that God wished to communicate to mankind.

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## THE GLORY OF CHRISTIAN SALVATION

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Here is the glory of Christian salvation whatever we have done or can do when we come to receive salvation to eternal life from the hand of God there is no other element which enters into it but mercy. It is not because our deeds deserve it; it is not because we have by repentance and faith wrought ourselves into such a state of mind that we can claim it; but, after all our tears, and sighs, and prayers, and good deeds, it is a pure favour and gift of God.

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## THE SPLENDOR OF CHRISTIAN SALVATION

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Here is the wonder, splendour and spectacular glory of the Christian Gospel of Salvation, "Our justification and our redemption is not in our works or our own self-righteousness, but in the kindness and love of God who accepts us through the excellences and virtues of Christ alone and not from any desert in us, but according to His own mercy and by his grace and His free unmerited goodness. Clearly this is one of the celebrated reasons the Christian message of salvation is called, 'The Good News.'

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## GOD'S WORD COMING TO THE HUMAN MIND

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A person's mind is either influenced and motivated by their-own opinion and ideas or influenced and motivated by the inspiration of God. We can allow our own understanding and wisdom to influence our minds or allow God's wisdom and understanding to influence it. Before God's word was in print wisdom and understanding of God's eternal purposes came to the mind of the prophets and apostles by the Spirit of God, they then spoke this knowledge of God and His purposes to the people.

Once the cannon of God's word was in print that same wisdom and understanding of God now comes to the mind of those who have a right heart attitude by reading and mediating upon the Scriptures and by the teaching and hearing the messages of God, the messages of Christ and the messages that the prophets and the apostles spoke which are now recorded and written in the Bible. Receiving the Spirit is equivalent to receiving the knowledge of the truth.

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## THE HUMAN SPIRIT

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The human spirit can be explained as a person's essence meaning the core of who they are as a whole. The spirit embraces the thoughts, motives and intents of the mind and the heart (the inner most being) and the intellect, the will and the attitudes looked at together as a collective whole.

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## THE UGLINESS OF SIN

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We are all descendants of our earthly father Adam and because of this we have all inherited certain indwelling sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that infect the heart and mind like a cancerous virus (i.e., selfishness, pride, ego, jealousies, anger, envy, coveting and such like things). When Christians begin to perceive the ugliness and depth of this indwelling sin it is not a sign of moving away from God, but rather a sign that they are spiritually moving toward God as well as a sign of spiritual growth since the further we enter into God's pure and Holy Spirit the clearer we will see the inward ugliness that we have been saved from.

Sinning against the Spirit is the same as sinning against the knowledge of the truth and the same as sinning against the Holy Spirit.

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## THE OLD TESTAMENT

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### INTRODUCTION

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This section covers Old Testament Scriptures using the word spirit and looks at what the Spirit of God meant to the faithful in the Old Testament and the different aspects of the human spirit and what it embraces.

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### GOD'S SPIRIT SHALL NOT ABIDE IN MAN FOREVER

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- **Genesis 6:3:** The LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

God is eternal life this means he is the source of all life including human mortal life. If God withdrew His Spirit from this planet humanity would die. The Spirit in this context refers to the LORD'S Spirit struggling with the gross sin of humankind. Prior to the flood people lived for hundreds of years, but their wickedness was great in the earth, and every intention of the thoughts of their heart was continually evil (Genesis 6:5) so God shortened human life to one-hundred and twenty years.

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## THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELT IN JOSEPH

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- **Genesis 41:38:** Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this (Joseph), in whom is the Spirit of God?"

Joseph by the inspiration of God interpreted an amazing dream that the Pharaoh of Egypt dreamed and the king was so amazed he exalted Joseph to his right hand side. The Spirit in this context refers to God's Spirit in Joseph outwardly manifested in Joseph's ability to interpret the dream and in the wise advice Joseph gave to the king of Egypt.

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## GRUMBLING AGAINST MOSES AND AARON, WAS GRUMBLING AGAINST THE LORD

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- **Exodus 16:2-8:** The whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness ----NOW GO TO VERSE SIX ---- <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" <sup>8</sup>And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him— what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

These verses show that grumbling against Moses is the same as grumbling against the LORD Himself, this principal also applies to whoever God loves. When we do harm physically, verbally, emotionally or spiritually to those who belong to God it is the same as doing it to God Himself.

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## THE SPIRIT IMPARTS SKILLS OF CRAFTSMANSHIP, INTELLIGENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

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- **Exodus 28:3:** You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a Spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood.
- I (the LORD) have filled him (Bezalel) with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship (Exodus 31:3).
- Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship (Exodus 35:30-31).

The Spirit in the context of these verses refer to the skills of craftsmen and the skills, abilities, intelligence and knowledge the LORD filled and gifted Bezalel with.

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## A FAMILIAR SPIRIT

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- **Leviticus 20:27:** A man or a woman who is a medium (has a familiar spirit) or a wizard shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them.

The spirit in this context refers to the spirit of those who appear to conjure up the spirit of the dead and similar things. For further information see the title:

Samuel and King Saul and the Medium Woman of Endor,

- In Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).



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## THE SPIRIT OF JEALOUSY

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- **Numbers 5:14:** If the spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife who has defiled herself, or if the spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife, though she has not defiled herself.

The spirit in this context refers to the spirit of human jealousy.

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## THE LORD TAKES THE SPIRIT OFF MOSES AND PUTS IN ONTO SEVENTY PROPHETS

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- **Numbers 11:24-26:** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. <sup>26</sup>Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

Prior to these verses Moses told the LORD that the responsibility of overseeing the people of Israel is too stressful for him so the LORD tells him to gather seventy elders of Israel and he will take some of the Spirit that is on Moses and put it on the seventy so that Moses does not have to carry the burden alone. These verses show that God is able to take a portion of His Spirit from one person and place it onto others as He chooses. Jesus was filled with the fullness of God's Spirit in every way and without any limitations while brothers and sisters in Christ are filled with God's Spirit with limitations of varying degrees. In verse twenty-nine the son of nun tells Moses to stop the men from prophesying and Moses tells him that he would love for all the LORD'S people to be prophets.

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Prophesying to the Jews was a sign that God favour and Spirit was upon a person. This is why when God poured out the Holy Spirit in the New Testament upon the Gentiles and they praised God and prophesied in other languages and dialects (tongues) that they had not learned, but others who heard them clearly understood what they were saying was a sign to the Jews that God was now accepting Gentiles into his Kingdom. For further information concerning tongues see:

- 1 Corinthians 14, in Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## THE SPIRIT CAME UPON BALAAM

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- **Numbers 24:2:** Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him.

The Spirit in this context refers to the inspiration of God influencing Balaam to prophecy blessings, victory and triumph for Israel.

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## CALEB HAD A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

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- **Numbers 14:24:** But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

The spirit in this context refers to Caleb's godly spirit of faith and of courage to go into the Promised Land in contrast to the spirit of fear that the people of Israel had.



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## JOSHUA WAS FULL OF THE SPIRIT

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- **Deuteronomy 34:9:** Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him.

The spirit in this context refers to the wisdom of God that Moses had imparted to Joshua by laying hands on him.

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## A SPIRIT OF FEAR

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- **Joshua 5:1:** As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

The spirit in this context refers to the spirit of fear in the Amorites and the Canaanites because of the mighty works God had done for the people of Israel.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CLOTHED GIDEON

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- **Judges 6:34:** the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

All the worshippers of Baal came out against Gideon because he had destroyed the altar of Baal, but the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon to blow the trumpet and Israel gathered to fight with him (Judges 6:25-36). The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of God that strengthened Gideon with courage and inspired him to blow the trumpet.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WAS UPON JEPHTHAH

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- **Judges 11:29:** The Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites.

The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of the LORD that guided Jephthah.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD STIRRED SAMSON

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- **Judges 13:24-25:** The woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. <sup>25</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit Samson at a young age began to have toward the LORD.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD RUSHED UPON SAMSON

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- **Judges 15:14-15:** When he (Samson) came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. <sup>15</sup>And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.

The Spirit in this context refers to the strength of the LORD that the Spirit of the LORD poured out upon Samson.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD REVIVED SAMSON

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- **Judges 15:18-19:** Samson was very thirsty, and he called upon the LORD and said, "You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" <sup>19</sup>And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived.

The spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of vitality, energy and strength that came upon Samson.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD RUSHED UPON SAUL

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- **1 Samuel 10:6:** The Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you (Saul) and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.
- When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him (Saul) and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them (1 Sam. 10:10).

The Spirit in the context of these verses refers to the influence of the LORD'S Spirit upon Saul's mind that inspired him to prophecy.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD RUSHED UPON DAVID

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- **1 Samuel 16:13:** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of the LORD coming upon David and dwelling within him. Since David was called to be a prophet and a king the Spirit of the LORD dwelling within him would embrace the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of God's purposes coming upon him and inspiring him in the ways of the LORD and His will.

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## THE SPIRIT IN MAN AND THE BREATH OF THE ALMIGHTY

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- **Job 32:8-10:** It is the Spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. <sup>9</sup>It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right. <sup>8</sup>But it is the Spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. <sup>9</sup>It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I (Elihu) say, 'Listen to me; let me also declare my opinion.'

Elihu a young and timid man who after having patiently listened to the older men council Job and hearing all they had to say disagrees with their council and is now telling them that wisdom is not dependent on a person's age whether they are young or old, but on the degree of the Spirit of God dwelling within them. Elihu being young most likely expected the older men to have the greater wisdom, but after listening to their advice realises that just because a person is older does not always mean they are wiser.

**NOTICE:** Elihu says, "Let me declare my opinion." Elihu is not going to speak as though he is declaring the word of God, but rather makes it clear that he is only sharing his opinion.

**The principal:** to learn from what Elihu is saying is that if a person is not sure that what they are saying is the inspired and true words of God they should not speak or teach them as though they are, but rather say, in my opinion, in my understanding, or I think this is what it means etc., so that no-one is led astray by their words. Sadly, there are religious men and

woman today who claim to be speaking under the inspiration of God when in fact they are actually speaking from their own spirit. The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of God dwelling within man that gives understanding and makes him wise concerning the things of God and the things that are right.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GIVES LIFE

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- **Job 33:4:** The Spirit of God has made me (Elihu) and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- If God should set his heart to it and gather to himself his Spirit and his breath <sup>15</sup>all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust (Job 34:14-15).

The spirit in this context is referred to as God's breath this is because God is not only the source of all life, but also sustains all life. In this context the Spirit refers to God's Spirit and the human spirit (i.e., mortal life).

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## TO KNOW THE LORD'S SECRETS AND COVENANT

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- **Psalms 25:14:** The friendship (secret in KJV) of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

To be a friend of God and share in His secrets means having an alliance of friendship and intimacy with God and becoming holy as God is holy (by faith). It carries the idea of knowing God's divine plans and eternal purposes and being privy to the secret counsel that He longs to share with those who are devoted to Him and faithfully following Him.

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## A CRUSHED IN SPIRIT

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- **Psalms 34:18:** The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit (of a contrite spirit in KJV).

The spirit in this context refers to two things firstly to the emotions the human heart feels when it is in deep depression and suffering great sorrow and to the emotions of grief those who are deeply burdened feel because of their sin. Secondly it refers to God's Spirit that comforts those who are in deep sorrow and to God's Spirit that saves the humble and repentant of heart to eternal life.

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## RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME

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- **Psalms 51:10-14:** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

There are two aspects to this prayer of David's; the first part is focused upon what David desires God by his Spirit would do within his mind and heart; the second part is focused upon what David will do for God.

### David prays that God will:

- Create in him a clean heart and renew a right spirit within him.
- Cast him not away from his presence or take the Holy Spirit from him.

- Restore to him the joy he once had in his salvation.
- Strengthen him by his free Spirit and deliver him from the guilt of killing.

#### **Then David says he will:**

- Teach transgressors God's ways, so that sinners would be converted to God.
- Sing and praise out loud the beauty of God's righteousness.

Some today say that we should not pray for God to create in us a clean heart or renew a right Spirit within us since these are things that we should do ourselves, but it is always us doing what we can and praying that the Lord will by his Spirit help us. David was deeply broken and repentant before God when Nathan confronted him about his sin with Bathsheba it is certain David did all he could to change his lack of integrity and wrong ways and deeply desired to stand in holiness before God, this is the reason he so passionately prays (as we all should) that God would help him.

**NOTE:** this does not mean that we will ever be sin free this side of Christ's return, if any one of us could attain to that glorious standard Christ died for no purpose. Jesus didn't lay his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that we could attain to God's perfect Holiness, but because we couldn't. But it does mean that we should be endeavouring to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

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### **THE LORD WILL POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT**

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- **Proverbs 1:22-23:** How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup>If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my Spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

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Here is the glory of God's great mercy and grace toward whoever will come to Him in honest heartfelt repentance. God in this chapter is saying if the sinner, the murder, the violent, the thief, the greedy for gain, mockers and the foolish who hate being spoken to about the things concerning God and despise listening to any knowledge concerning Him and his wisdom toward what is right, turn from their wicked ways and turn to God he will pour out his Spirit upon them and make his words known. The Spirit in this context refers to God's Spirit of grace, inspiration and understanding the things concerning God and the path to salvation and eternal life.

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### **THE SPIRIT AND HUMAN BREATH**

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- **Isaiah 42:5:** Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and Spirit to those who walk in it:

Without breathing humans would die, breath is a symbol of life, God's Spirit holds all life together therefore in this context the breath of a person is the Spirit of God. Concerning God's breath Job said, "If God should set his heart to it and gather to himself his Spirit and his breath all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust (Job 34:14-15). The spirit in this context is referred to as God's breath this is because God is not only the source of all life, but also sustains all life. In this context the Spirit refers to God's Spirit and the human spirit (i.e., mortal life).

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### **THE LORD WILL POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT**

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- **Isaiah 44:3:** I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring and my blessing on your descendants.

The Spirit in the context of this verse not only refers to God's blessings on Israel's land outwardly manifested with rain and fresh water in their rivers and streams, but also to good health and prosperity for their descendants.

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## THE LORD'S SPIRIT AND HIS WORDS

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- **Isaiah 59:20-21:** A Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup>"And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore."

The LORD in this verse is telling Israel that a redeemer will come to those who turn from wrongdoing, rebellion and disobedience and that they should teach the words that He has spoken to them to their children from generation to generation and never forsake them or turn from them. The Spirit in this context refers to God's favour and His blessings being upon the nation of Israel, providing they keep his words and do not turn from Him and His ways.

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD'S SPIRIT

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- **Isaiah 63:11:** God remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit.

Israel by their rebellion against God has grieved the Holy Spirit so the LORD has turned against them. In this verse God is asking Israel where are the good shepherds like Moses who by his faithful leadership brought the Holy Spirit of God amongst the people of God. The Holy Spirit in this context refers to the heart of the people of Israel being faithful to God and walking with Him and to God's favour being upon them as a nation.

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LORD'S VOICE

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- **Ezekiel 2:1-2:** One in the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD (Ezek. 1:28) said to me, (Ezekiel) "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you" <sup>2</sup>And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

The Spirit in this context refers to God's presence strengthening Ezekiel and to God's messages coming to his mind that God desired to impart to those of Israel who had rebelled and transgressed against Him.

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LORD'S HAND

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- **Ezekiel 8:3:** He (a form that had the appearance of a man) (Ezek. 8:2) put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy.

The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of God that gives to the mind a vision of God or a vision that God desires a prophet to pass onto his people. A biblical vision can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or

vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind). A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision

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## THE LORD'S WORKS THROUGH THE HUMAN SPIRIT

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- **Haggai 1:14:** I the LORD stirred up the Spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the Spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the Spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God.

The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of the LORD that inspired the people of Israel to build the temple of God.

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## THE LORD'S SPIRIT AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

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- **Zechariah 12:1:** The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the Spirit of man within him.

The Spirit in this context refers to mortal human life including the will, emotions, mind and intellect in contrast to other life forms of life that have only mortal life and instinct such as animal, bird and fish life etc. This does not mean God has made us the person we are, but that at the beginning of creation he formed humankind with a mind, intellect, will and emotions. What we do with these and how we use them is dependent on our choices, decisions and sometimes upon time and chance. The book of Ecclesiastes states:

- Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all (Eccles. 9:11).

Who we become will depend on our responses and the choices we make when time and chance comes our way.

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## CONCLUSION

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**God's Spirit:** embraces the, breathe of God, the Holy Spirit, eternal life, God's presence, miraculous power, comfort and grace, and imparts to mankind life giving breath, energy, vitality and inspiration. Strength, courage, skills, wisdom, faith and favour, guidance, intelligence, knowledge, understanding and visions dreams and prophecies of his plans and purposes and blessings of all kinds

**The human spirit:** embraces mortal life, jealousy, fear, depression, suffering sorrow and grief.