# THE HOLY SPIRIT



# Spirit.. defined parallel to the presence of God

#### Psalm 139:7 (KJV)

## 7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?



Each of these listed functions of the spirit refers to the one God, Yahweh, in action.

The spirit of God is one of the primary ways of talking about God's involvement in His creation. Most scholars agree, as James Dunn has already noted, the OT does not teach a literal distinction between God and His spirit.



Oftentimes the writers of the Hebrew Bible employed literary metaphors when speaking of Yahweh's deeds.

For example, one may say "the word of Yahweh came to me" or "the spirit of God came upon him" or "the world was established by His wisdom." These are ways of referring to the almighty, transcendent God in His mode of acting within creation.

**Anthony Buzzard on the Holy Spirit** If one combs through standard Bible dictionaries, it is obvious that ninetyeight percent of the biblical data is satisfied if we define the Spirit as God in effective action, God in communication, His power and personality extending their influence to touch the creation in a variety of ways...

Is the Spirit really anything other than God's energy, inspiring human beings to perform extraordinary feats of valor, endowing them with special artistic skill or miraculous powers, and especially communicating divine truth?

The <u>spirit of God</u> is a way of referring to Yahweh in action. Consequently, criticizing His spirit is the same as criticizing God Himself. One experiences the distant person as near through the letter. God is so holy that even the holiest among us cannot see His face and live (Exodus 33:20).

#### Exodus 33:20 (KJV)

20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Until the resurrection, we are simply incapable of enjoying His immediate presence. Even so, He longs to communicate with us and have a relationship with us. He interacts with us through His spirit, His word, His empowerment, His wisdom, etc.

(regarding OT pneumatology) that God's spirit is not a person, though it is very personal—it is the very self-expression of Yahweh, the one God (Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; 6:4).

#### Deuteronomy 4:35 (KJV)

35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.

#### Deuteronomy 4:39(KJV)

39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

#### Deuteronomy 6:4 (KJV)

# 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:



# The Spirit in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)

When one flips the page entitled "The New Testament" and enters the territory of Matthew chapter one, the definitions gained from the OT do not suddenly disappear. In fact, in the first three Gospels, references to the spirit of God are very much in tune with what we have already discovered.



# The holy spirit caused the generation of life in the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35)

#### Matthew 1:18 (NASB)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

#### Matthew 1: 18

Now this is the origin of Jesus Messiah: His mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married she became pregnant from the power of holy spirit.

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

#### Matthew 1:20 (NASB)

20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

#### Matthew 1:20

While he was reflecting on all this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said to him, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to marry Mary, because what has been fathered and procreated within her is derived from <u>God's creative holy spirit</u>.

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

# Luke 1:35 (NASB)

35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

#### Luke 1:35

The angel's reply to her was this: "Holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Precisely for that reason the baby to be fathered will be called holy and the Son of God.

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:



# Jesus baptizes with it (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16);

### Matthew 3:11 (NASB)

11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

#### Matthew 3:11

"Yes, indeed. I baptize you in water to show your repentance, but after me is coming one who is far greater than I am. I am unworthy even to remove his sandals. <u>He is going to be baptizing you</u> <u>with holy spirit and with fire.</u>

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

#### Mark 1:8 (NASB)

#### 8 I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

# Mark 1:8 I baptized you with water but <u>he</u> will be baptizing you in holy spirit."

# The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

#### Luke 3:16 (NASB)

16 John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

#### Luke 3:16

John replied and explained to them all, "Yes, I am immersing you in water. But the one who is coming is far more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to untie his shoelaces. He will be immersing you with the holy spirit and with fire.

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:



# It descended upon Christ at his baptism (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22);

#### Matthew 3:16 (NASB)

16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,

#### Matthew 3:16

Immediately after he was baptized, Jesus came out of the water. The heavens were opened, and he saw <u>God's spirit</u> like a dove descending and settling on him.

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

# Mark 1:10 (NASB)

10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;

#### Mark 1:10

As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split apart and the spirit like a dove descending upon him.

#### The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

# Luke 3:22(NASB)

22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

#### Luke 3:22

and the holy spirit descended upon him, taking the form of a dove. A voice came from heaven, with these words, "You are My son, the one I love. I am delighted with you."

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:



# It drove Jesus to go into the wilderness (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1);

#### Matthew 4:1 (NASB)

# 4 <u>Then Jesus was led up by the</u> <u>Spirit into the wilderness to be</u> tempted by the devil.

# Matthew 4:1 <u>Then Jesus was led by the spirit</u> into the desert to be tempted by the Devil.

# The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

# Mark 1:12 (NASB)

12 Immediately the Spirit \*impelled Him to go out into the wilderness.

# Mark 1:12 Immediately after this <u>the spirit</u> <u>sent Jesus</u> away into the wilderness

# The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation:

## Luke 4:1 (NASB)

# 4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness

#### Luke 4:1

<u>Jesus, full of holy spirit</u>, returned from the Jordan and <u>was guided</u> <u>by the spirit in the desert</u>,

The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation: