

## WE WILL CONSIDER

- The word 'Spirit' means 'wind' or 'breath'.
- It is used to describe many different things, including emotions, people's levels of energy and people's state of mind or attitude.
- God's spirit is His power which keeps everyone alive and which He sometimes gave to people to do special things for Him.
- God's way of thinking is also called 'the spirit'.

# The **B**iBLE EXHIBITION

## THE TRUTH ABOUT

# *the Spirit*

### *What is Spirit?*

The Hebrew and Greek words usually translated 'spirit' in English Bibles mean 'wind' or 'breath'.

In different parts of the Bible, 'spirit' is also used to describe the state of mind, energy or attitude of a person, or the power of God.

### *State of Mind*

Paul's spirit was restless because he did not find Titus (2 Corinthians 2:13). The spirit of Titus was refreshed when he visited the saints in Corinth (2 Corinthians 7:13). Paul said he was with the Corinthians in spirit, meaning that he was thinking about them (1 Corinthians 5:3).

There are also many other places where the Bible uses the word 'spirit' to describe someone's state of mind. Spirits can be troubled (Genesis 41:8), anguished (Exodus 6:9; Job 7:11), jealous (Numbers 5:14), evil (Judges 9:23), sorrowful (1 Samuel 1:15), sad (1 Kings 21:5), contrite (Psalm 34:18), right (Psalm 51:10), faithful (Proverbs 11:13), hasty (Proverbs 14:29), haughty (Proverbs 16:32), vexed (Ecclesiastes 1:18), patient, proud (Ecclesiastes 7:8), excellent (Daniel 6:3), poor (Matthew 5:3), rejoicing (Luke 1:47, 10:21), fervent (Romans 12:11), meek (2 Corinthians 4:21; Galatians 6:1), holy (1 Corinthians 7:34), filthy (2 Corinthians 7:1), quiet (1 Peter 3:4).

### *Energy*

Sometimes the word 'spirit' refers to people's levels of energy. We read that the spirit of Jacob revived when he realised his son Joseph was alive (Genesis 45:27). In Judges 15:18-19 Samson thought he was going to die of thirst; when God provided him with water and he drank, 'his spirit returned, and he revived'. David's spirit 'came again to him' after he ate some food. The Queen of Sheba had 'no more spirit left in her' when she saw Solomon's glory (1 Kings 10:5).

### *Attitude*

Sometimes when the Bible talks about someone's 'spirit', it means their attitude, or the way they think. Women are instructed to have a 'meek and quiet spirit' (1 Peter 3:4). Disciples are encouraged to have the same spirit – the same way of thinking (Philippians 1:27). We need to change the way we think so that it is more Godly: 'Be renewed in the spirit of your mind' (Ephesians 4:23). By thinking and behaving the right way we 'glorify God in our body and spirit which are God's.' (1 Corinthians 6:20)

### *Unclean Spirits*

Throughout the Gospels, we read of people having 'unclean spirits' (eg Mark 9:25). This simply means they had a nervous or mental disorder (eg Mark 9:17 18; Matthew 17:15-16).

## *God's Spirit*

God's spirit is His power, sometimes called the 'Holy Ghost' in English Bibles.

God used His spirit to create everything, and it keeps everything alive (Job 26:13, 33:4; Psalm 104:30; Ecclesiastes 11:5). We live because we have the 'breath of life' in our nostrils. When God takes that breath or spirit back, we die and return to dust (Genesis 2:7; Job 27:3, 33:4, 34:14-15; Psalm 104:29-30; Ecclesiastes 8:8, 12:7; Luke 8:55; James 2:26). Our 'spirit' does not continue to live on somewhere else.

God gave His spirit to people in Bible times to do special things for Him (eg Exodus 31:3; Numbers 11:17; Judges 6:34, 14:6,19, 15:14; Luke 1:15,35,41,67; Acts 4:31).

'The spirit' often refers to God's way of thinking or Godliness. As John the Baptist and Jesus grew up, they 'became strong in spirit' (Luke 1:80, 2:40), growing in Godliness. 'Those who live according to the spirit set their minds on the things of the spirit' (Romans 8:5-11). If we 'walk in the Spirit [we] shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.' (Galatians 5:16) We have a constant battle between flesh and spirit, or our own thinking and God's thinking (Galatians 5:17; Romans 7:13-25). We need to destroy the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) and develop the fruit of the spirit:

'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control'

Galatians 5:22-23

*More information,*

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact:

## THE TRUTH ABOUT

### SUMMARY

The word 'Spirit' means breath or wind.

It describes people's state of mind, energy, and attitude.

God's spirit is His power by which He created everything.

When we die, God takes away the spirit or breath which He gave, and we return to dust. Our 'spirit' does not continue to live.

God sometimes gave His spirit to people to help them do special things for Him.

# *the Spirit*

*The* **BIBLE**  
EXHIBITION