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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* (רָחַ), which action is *travel* and the concrete meaning is *path*. The child root is *rwh* (רָוַח), 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? (1Cor 2:11). *The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity* (Pr 18:14). If our spirit resides within, and sustains our infirmity, then it must be unclean.

1. What is the spirit of mankind?

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

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

Ps 77:6: We commune with ourselves in thoughts (mind) & feelings (heart); cf Dan 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. Pr 20:27: How does man's *spirit* allow God to search the mind/heart? Mt 15:11 (belly - Pr 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 (Isa 57:15 LITV). (note: the spirit can be contrite & humble, or proud - Dan 5:20)

2. How does God make alive the spirit & heart? 2Cor 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? Eze 2:1-2; Pr 1:23; 2Sam 23:2; cf Job 15:12-13; 26:4 {cp Acts 2:2, 4 with Lk 24:44-45 think breath of Jesus - Jn 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? Eph 4:23 (where); Col 3:10 (how, image)

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

Read Ephesians 4:4-6:

5. Who is the one God? Who is the one Lord? 1Cor 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, Jn 17:3.}

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

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

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

{Jesus only spoke what the Father told him, Jn 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? Eph 1:9-14 (pledge); 2Cor 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" Jn 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 (Jn 17:21-22) by receiving the spirit of the truth from Jesus.