

Existence of the Human Spirit

Evidence of the Human Spirit

- Hebrew word translated “spirit” is *ruah* means wind, breath, spirit
 - same as Greek *pneuma*
- 1 Chr 5:26, “So the God of Israel stirred up the **spirit** of Pul king of Assyria.”
 - “spirit” is *ruah*
- Ps 77:3, “I mused, and my **spirit** grew faint.”
- Zech 12:1, “The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human **spirit** within a person”
- Mal 2:15, “So guard yourself in your **spirit**.”
- Lk 1:47, “... and my **spirit** rejoices in God my Savior.”
- Ro 8:10, “But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your **spirit** is alive because of righteousness.”
- Ro 8:16, “The **Spirit** himself testifies with our **spirit** that we are God’s children.”
- 2 Tim 4:22, “The Lord be with your **spirit**. Grace be with you.”
- Conclusion: Each human has a spirit, regardless of their spiritual condition.

Human Spirit, Source of Life

- Ps 104:29, “When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their **breath**, they die and return to the dust.”
 - “breath” (Heb, *ruah*): breath, wind, spirit
 - What happens when a person’s breath or spirit is taken away?
 - Does it matter whether that person is a Christian, Jew or pagan?
- Ps 146:4, “When their **spirit** departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.”
- Mt 27:50, “And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his **spirit**.”
 - What does the phrase, “he gave up his spirit,” mean?
 - Jn 10:17-18, “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.”
- Lk 8:53-55, “They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, ‘My child, get up!’ Her **spirit** returned, and at once she stood up.”
 - What happened to the girl’s spirit when she died?
 - What happened to her when her spirit returned?
- Jn 6:63, “The **Spirit** gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.”
 - A person’s spirit gives life to and sustains their psyche and body, regardless of their spiritual condition.
 - God’s Spirit gives supernatural life to a believer’s spirit.
- Jas 2:26, “As the body without the **spirit** is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”

- Conclusion: The human spirit gives life to the person's psyche and body.

Human Spirit Can Mature, be Strengthened and Purified

- Our spirits can "grow up"
 - 1 Pet 2:2, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **grow up** in your salvation."
 - "grow up" (Gk, *auxano*): (1) grow (up), increase, spread, extend; (2) enjoy greater respect
 - "salvation" (Gk, *soteria*): deliverance; salvation (as an event or state); preservation, safety
 - *soteria* can apply either to event of salvation (becoming born again) or state of being saved
 - We can be saved, children of God bound for Heaven, yet remain spiritual infants by not growing up.
 - According to this verse, what causes us to grow up in our salvation?
 - What's the significance of calling this milk "spiritual"?
 - Jn 6:63 (Jesus speaking), "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."
 - 2 Co 3:18, "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the **Spirit**."
 - In what ways can the phrase, "being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory," apply to the human spirit?
 - How might that phrase be relevant to the psyche?
 - 2 Co 10:15, "Our hope is that, as your faith continues to **grow**, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand."
 - "grow" (Gk, *auxano*)
 - Is faith a function of the psyche or spirit?
 - Gal 5:22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness"
 - **Growth** is a major principle in God's kingdom and in natural life.
- Our spirits can become "mature"
 - Greek adjective *teleios*: (1) complete, finished; (2) perfect (in kind); (3) mature, full grown
 - verb form: *teleioo*
 - Heb 12:23-24, "You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the **spirits** of righteous men **made perfect**"
 - "spirits" (Gk, *pneuma*)
 - "made perfect" (Gk, *teleioo*)
 - What's the difference between righteousness and spiritual maturity?
 - Is it possible for righteous people to be spiritually immature?
 - Eph 4:13, "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

- Heb 5:14, “But solid food is for the **mature**, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”
 - “distinguish” (Gk, *diakrisis*): (1) ability to decide, distinguish, or discern, especially in giving judgment; (2) dispute, argue
 - 1 Co 12:10: “distinguishing/*diakrisis* between spirits” is a spiritual gift or ability
 - How might “distinguishing good from evil” be a spiritual function?
 - According to this verse, who trained these people to distinguish good from evil?
 - What does this suggest about our ability to develop our own spirits, to make ourselves spiritually mature?
- Conclusion: Your spirit is automatically righteous and fully equipped upon your salvation, but it’s not mature and needs to grow.
- Our spirits can be “strong”
 - Lk 1:80 “And the child grew and **became strong** in spirit.”
 - “became strong” (Gk, *krataioo*): (1) become strong, healthy (2) become powerful, empowered
 - He became strong in what part?
 - Eph 3:16, “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may **strengthen** you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”
 - “strengthen” (Gk, *krataioo*)
 - “power” (Gk, *dynamis*)
 - “inner being”: literally, “inner man” (*eso anthropos*)
 - Conclusion: We can strengthen our spirits.
- We can “build up” our spirits
 - “build up” (Gk, *oikodome*): building; construction; making more able or stronger
 - 1 Co 14:12, “Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that **build up** the church.”
 - Based on this verse, what part of our human structure should we build up?
 - Jude 20, “But you, dear friends, by **building yourselves up** in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit”
 - As we saw earlier, faith is a product (fruit) of what part of our being?
 - Praying in the Holy Spirit originates in what part of our being?
 - What part of us does this verse indicate we can build up?
 - Conclusion: We can build up other people’s spirits and our own.
- Our spirits can be contaminated and purified
 - 2 Co 7:1, “... let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and **spirit**, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”
 - What does this say about the possible condition of our spirits?
 - “purify” (Gk, *katharizo*): (1) to cleanse, purge, purify; (2) to heal

- Jas 4:8, “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
 - “purify” (Gk, *hagnizo*): purify, cleanse (morally or ceremonially)
 - “heart” (Gk, *kardia*) probably spirit
- Conclusion: We may need to purify our spirits.

Human Spirit Interacts with God

- Rom 1:9, “God, whom I serve with my whole **heart**”
 - “heart” (Gk, *pneuma*): spirit
 - What part of his being did Paul say was serving God?
- 1 Co 14:15-16, “¹⁵ So what shall I do? I will pray with my **spirit**, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my **spirit**, but I will also sing with my mind. ¹⁶ If you are praising God with your **spirit**”
 - According to this verse, the human spirit can engage in what three activities?
 - Which of these activities describes interaction with God?
- Rom 8:16, “The Spirit himself testifies with our **spirit** that we are God’s children.”
 - “testifies with” (Gk, *symmartyrei*): testify in support, corroborate, confirm
- Conclusion: Your spirit interacts with God; your body and psyche do not.

Closing

- Today:
 - Every person has a human spirit.
 - It’s the source of life for your psyche and body.
 - It can grow, become mature, be strengthened and purified.
 - It’s the part of you that interacts with God.
- Next week: our triune or three-part nature

Daily Activities

- Each day this week, choose a different section of this presentation and ponder the scriptures in it.
 - Invite the Holy Spirit to give you greater insight and understanding of those scriptures.
 - Read each scripture aloud and meditate on it, then write any new insight you receive.

Blessing

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with **your spirit**.” (Phm 25)