



# A Sure Foundation

The beliefs that we build our lives on

## THE RUAH OF GOD

MONTH 2

WEEK 1

READ:

Acts 1-7

1 Samuel 10-28

I tend to separate out and categorize things. It makes them seem clear and well defined. But the Spirit of God wisps through my fingers at my every attempt to pin Him down. I can't separate Him from God because God without His spirit would not be God any more than you or I would be who we are without our spirit. Some people have a spirit of meanness, while others have a quiet and gentle spirit. When we say someone is "spirited," we usually mean that the force of their personality is so strong that there is no mistaking what they are like. If they are in the room you know it. They vigorously and energetically live out who they are. The presence of God's spirit in that gathering of believers on the day of Pentecost was unmistakable. God is spirited. People, as beings made in God's image, also have a spirit. The same Hebrew word, "ruah" is used for the spirit of both man and God. We are spiritual beings equipped to relate with a spiritual God. God's spirit is holy. If the presence, power, and personality of God has become our own spirit, then we are indeed a new creation! There are certain qualities that give evidence that it is God's spirit that is present. We are familiar with the fruits of the Spirit, but what are some other ways that God's spirit manifests itself? The human spirit is limited in the scope of its reach, but still we can sometimes experience it even when we are not in the person's immediate presence. God's spirit is so powerful it can proceed to express itself in ways that make Him seem to us as a separate powerful being, with His own name: The Holy Spirit. That is true, but we must not allow that to make Him seem like an optional accessory. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of God so it would be impossible for Him to behave in a way contrary to God. It is impossible for us to accept God without also welcoming His spirit. The Holy Spirit must be more than a visiting voice that occasionally whispers a suggestion to us. He must be more than the barely acknowledged guest in our home that we catch only occasional glimpses of. He cannot stay on the periphery of our faith until we figure out what it is we are supposed to do with Him. We must allow the spirit of God to be our Lord and Master, or He will be nothing to us at all.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 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."

2 Corinthians

3:17,18

## GOD'S CREATIVE SPIRIT

We first meet the spirit of God in the second verse of the Bible. We are told that the "Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Spirit is "ruah" in Hebrew, and its meanings include words like: air, breath, emotions, life, and mind. (Key Word Study Bible 1550) So apparently the Spirit is the very breath and life of God, His mind and His feelings? And what does it mean that He was "hovering"? The King James Version uses the word moving. The word actually means "brooding". Is that brooding like when I'm thinking through a tough issue, or brooding like a mother hen who has parked herself on a nest for the purpose of bringing life forth from the promise beneath her? What do these verses say about the creative breath of God's spirit?



Job 26:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Job 34:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 33:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 104:30 \_\_\_\_\_

"Holy Spirit, making life alive,  
moving in all things, root of all creative being,  
cleansing the cosmos of every impurity,  
effacing guilt, anointing wounds.

You are lustrous and praiseworthy life,  
you waken and re-awaken everything that is.

Holy Spirit, through you clouds billow,  
breezes blow, stones drip with trickling streams,  
streams that are the source of earth's lush greening.  
Likewise you are the source of human understanding,  
you bless with the breath of wisdom.

Thus all of our praise is yours,  
you who are the melody itself of praise,  
the joy of life, the mighty honor,  
the hope of those to whom you give the gifts of the light."

(Hildegard 48-49)

## THE ROLE OF THE SPIRIT

What did the Spirit do in the Old Testament?

Gen. 8:1 (the word for wind is ruah) \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 41:38 \_\_\_\_\_

Ex. 31:2-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Judges 3:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Sam. 19:20,23 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 18:15 (the word for breath is ruah) \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 61:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 36:26,27 \_\_\_\_\_

Micah 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_

## SAUL'S EXPERIENCE WITH GOD'S SPIRIT

1 Samuel 10-28

Saul is chosen by God to be the king that the people have been asking for. What part did the Spirit play in his life?

1 Sam. 10:6 \_\_\_\_\_

How did Saul go wrong in 1 Sam. 13:13,14?

When God chose another king for Israel, what did the Spirit do? (1 Sam. 16:13,14) \_\_\_\_\_

How did Saul view that situation according to 1 Sam. 18:12? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Saul turn to a medium to ask for Samuel's advice? (1 Sam. 28:15) \_\_\_\_\_

How important is the Spirit's presence to you?

David is said to have written Psalm 51 after his sin with Bathsheba. What does he ask in verses 10-12? \_\_\_\_\_

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTS 1-7

What comment does Luke make in Acts 1:2 about Jesus' commandments to His apostles? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus promise His followers about the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:4-8? \_\_\_\_\_

Who gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

How many disciples were there (1:15)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many do you think were gathered on the day of Pentecost? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the Spirit appear? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this was the particular time that was chosen? \_\_\_\_\_

How did things change after that event? \_\_\_\_\_

When Peter spoke to the crowd, they were convicted and repentant. In 2:38 what did Peter say they would receive after they were baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the promise good for (v. 39)? \_\_\_\_\_

What amazed the religious leaders about Peter and John? (4:13) \_\_\_\_\_

What made them able to speak this way? \_\_\_\_\_

Is that same resource available to us? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the believers ask for in 4:29? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

When did your church last gather to pray that way and what happened? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the early Christians were so united in spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the qualifications of the seven men to be chosen in 6:3? \_\_\_\_\_

How can you tell that someone is full of the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

In 6:10, what made Stephen's words irresistible? \_\_\_\_\_

In 7:51-54, what did Stephen say that cut the people to the heart? \_\_\_\_\_

### THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What attributes of deity do these verses give to The Holy Spirit?

Job 33:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 139:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 40:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_

### THE GREAT EQUALIZER

Joel 2:28 says that God will pour out His Spirit on **all** people: old and young, men and women, all those who accept Him will receive Him. When Peter spoke to the amazed crowd on the day of Pentecost, he quoted the passage from Joel. In a society of rigid social classes, and age requirements, this was a powerful statement. The religious practices of the day defined the age at which one could begin to serve God, **if** you were of the right tribe and the right gender. Even more, we will later see the Spirit indwelling even the Gentiles. There appears a new standard for determining who has been approved by God for service to Him. If the Spirit is present, then that serves as the seal of God's presence in them.

What difference do you think that made to those early female believers? \_\_\_\_\_

### WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

GOD'S CREATIVE SPIRIT p. 2

Key Word Study Bible. 1996.

Hildegard. "Inspiring and Inhabiting Our Praise." The Contemporaries Meet the Classics on the Holy Spirit. Comp. Randall Harris. West Monroe, LA: Howard Publishing, 2004. 48-49



For more studies visit:  
[www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)