

## The Human Spirit

### Does every person have a spirit?

- Hebrew (*ruah*) & Greek (*pneuma*) mean basically same things:
  - breath, wind, spirit (including human spirit)
- Gen 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.’”
  - “image” (Heb, *tselem*): (1) image, pattern, model or example of something; (2) idol, formed artifact representing a pagan deity; (3) statue, figurine
  - “likeness” (Heb, *demuth*): (1) that which has a similarity or comparison; (2) image or form
  - Since God is a spirit being, what does this suggest about man?
- 1 Pet 3:18-20 “He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.”
  - all occurrences of “spirit” (Gk, *pneuma*)
  - To whom was Jesus preaching in this verse?
  - According to this verse, do sinners have spirits?
- Lk 8:54-55, “But he took her by the hand and said, ‘My child, get up!’ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up.”
  - What connection was there between her spirit and her return from death?
  - literal Greek text: “And returned the *pneuma* of her”
- Rom 8:16 “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”
  - Verse 14 of this passage refers to “the Spirit of God” (Holy Spirit), so to whom does verse 16 refer when it says “the Spirit himself”?
  - “our spirit” (v 16), literal Greek text: “the *pneuma* of us”
  - How many spirits are mentioned in verse 16 and who are they?

## **Your spirit is the source of life to your body**

- Jn 19:30, “. . . when he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”
  - What happened to Jesus when he gave up his spirit?
- Acts 7:59-60, “While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep.”
  - “falling asleep”: a euphemism for physical death
- Jn 6:63, “The Spirit gives life.”
- Your spirit gives life to and sustains the rest of you — your psyche & your body.

## **Your spirit is said to be within you**

- Ps 143:4, “So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.”
- Zech 12:1, “The Lord, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him ...”
- 1 Cor 2:11, “. . . man’s spirit within him”
- Saying your spirit is inside/within you is figurative language.

## **You are a three-part being**

- 1 Th 5:23 “May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Creation account (Genesis 1)
  - Two key Hebrew words used in Creation account: *bara* and *asah*
    - Heb *bara*
      - primary definition: to create, to bring something into existence which did not exist before
      - purist application: to bring something new into existence without using previously-existing materials; i.e., create out of nothing
    - Heb *asah*
      - primarily, to form something out of pre-existing materials; i.e., “make”

- *bara* (create out of nothing) occurs three times in Creation account
  - first use: Gen 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
  - vv 3-19 state he formed/made (Heb, *asah*) stars, planets, ground, water, air, plants
  - second use of *bara*: Gen 1:21, “So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.”
  - Gen 1:25, “God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds.”
    - “made” (Heb, *asah*) land creatures
  - third use of *bara*: Gen 1:27, “So God created man in his own image.”
  - Gen 1:26, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness . . . .”
    - “make” (Heb, *asah*, form out of existing material)
    - Did God create man out of nothing or make man from existing material?

### Three Levels of Creation Account

Three creative acts, one for each level of existence

<b>First use of <i>bara</i>: physical existence</b> basic matter & energy (day 1) planets (day 2) land & water, vegetation (day 3) celestial lights (day 4)	physical existence
<b>Second use of <i>bara</i>: living creatures</b> sea & air creatures (day 5) land creatures (day 6)	physical body & psyche
<b>Third use of <i>bara</i>: spirit creature</b> man (day 6)	physical body, psyche, & spirit

### Proposed model of human structure

Human Spirit	
<b>Description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● exists in spiritual realm</li> <li>● eternal</li> <li>● stable (only small, slow changes after salvation)</li> </ul>	<b>Traits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● character (God-given true self, real you)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ aptitudes (spiritual gifts, natural abilities)</li> <li>○ character traits (fruit of the spirit, other godly traits)</li> <li>○ tendencies (personality traits: extrovert/introvert, etc.)</li> <li>○ compelling interests</li> </ul> </li> <li>● will</li> <li>● conscience (knowledge of good/evil)</li> <li>● sub-conscious thought &amp; memory</li> <li>● spiritual senses (hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch)</li> </ul>
Human Psyche	
<b>Description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● exists in spiritual or psychical realm?</li> <li>● eternal</li> <li>● volatile/dynamic (changes easily, quickly)</li> </ul>	<b>Traits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● conscious awareness, mind, reasoning, intellect</li> <li>● decisiveness/decision-making</li> <li>● memory</li> <li>● attitudes, perspectives &amp; behavior patterns (including residual ones from former sinful life)</li> <li>● feelings/emotions</li> <li>● personality (expression of self)</li> </ul>
Human Body	
<b>Description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● exists in physical realm</li> <li>● temporal (will be replaced with eternal, spiritual body)</li> </ul>	<b>Traits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● sensory info (hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch)</li> <li>● bodily feelings (e.g., hunger, comfort, pain)</li> </ul>

- You are a spiritual being with a psyche, temporarily living in a physical body.

### **Closing**

- You have a human spirit; it's the source of life to your body; it's said to be within you.
- Blessing
  - May the Holy Spirit make you increasingly aware of the existence and importance of your human spirit.