

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
PART 2 - HIS NAMES-PART 1

Introduction

There are at least 25 different names used in Scripture in speaking of the Holy Spirit. Understand that names were more significant in Bible days than they are today. We find in these names a wonderful revealing of both the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit!

I. THE SPIRIT!

This is the simplest name by which the Holy Spirit is mentioned in Scripture! This name is also used as the basis of many of the other names of the Holy Spirit that we will see!

Both the Hebrew word (Old Testament) and the Greek Word (New Testament) that are translated this way literally mean “**Breath**” or “**Wind**.” Both thoughts are in the name as applied to the Holy Spirit.

A. Breath.

*Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a living soul.”*

*Job 33:4 The **Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.***

*Psalms 104:30 **Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.***

*John 20:22 “And when he had said this, **he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**”*

So, what is the significance of this name from what we see in these passages? It is that the Spirit is the outbreathing of God. It is God’s inmost life going forth in a personal form to enliven.

Listen, when we got saved, the Spirit gave us life! At the same time we began to be indwelt by that very same Holy Spirit of God! What an awesome and overwhelming thing that is!

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Think about it this way: We received the inmost life of God Himself to dwell within us in a very personal way!

When we truly take time to stop and think about what it means to have the inmost life of that infinite and eternal One Whom we call God dwelling in a personal way in our lives, that ought to make such a difference in the way we approach life, and think, and live! Amen!

B. Wind. (John 3:6-8)

Here in this passage the word translated in one part of this passage as “*Spirit*” is the same word translated in the other part as “*wind*.”

The full significance of this name as applied to the Holy Spirit may be beyond us to fathom, but we can see at least a few things here:

1. The Spirit, Like The Wind, Blows Where He Wishes! (John 3:8a)

There are none of us who can dictate to the wind. It is going to blow when and how it wants to blow!

e.g. When the wind is blowing cold air from the north, we may long to have it blow from warm air from the south! But all the bellyaching and crying in the world cannot change the direction of the wind!

e.g. When the winds of a hurricane or tropical storm are blowing we might rather that they would go in a certain direction. But all the desire and want in the world can’t change the direction of what it does! Not even the meteorologists can tell you where it is going to go!

The Holy Spirit is Sovereign—we cannot dictate to Him! (*e.g. Regarding our Spiritual gifts.*)

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*1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will.***

Now, we can learn the laws that govern wind's motions and can learn some things can't we. And by bringing ourselves into harmony with the laws of the wind we can even get the wind to do our work.

(e.g. Sailboats and windmills)

In the same way, we cannot dictate to the Holy Spirit, but we can learn the ways of the Holy Spirit and bring ourselves into harmony with His ways by submitting our wills absolutely to His Sovereign will. And when we do that God's will is accomplished through us to the Glory of God!

The Spirit, Like The Wind, Blows Where He Wishes!

2. The Spirit, Like The Wind, Is Invisible Yet He Is Perceptible! (John 3:8b)

We may **hear the sound** of the wind as it blows, and we may see, at times, **the mighty results of the wind** that is blowing, and we may even **feel the breath of the wind** on our face, but **we cannot see the wind itself! The wind itself remains invisible!**

The word translated "**sound**" there in **John 3:8** comes from the same word that is translated "**voice**" elsewhere in Scripture.

When it comes to the Holy Spirit, we not only hear **the "sound"** or the "**voice**" of the Holy Spirit, **we can feel His breath on our souls, we can see the mighty things that He does, but we cannot see Him! He is invisible, but He is real and perceptible!**

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Have you ever sensed the unseen yet awesome presence of God's Holy Spirit? Those who have know that it is an amazing thing when it happens!

None of us has seen the Holy Spirit at any time, but we that have sensed His Divine presence and/or witnessed His Divine power know that there is no doubt about His reality!

Some folks will say that they do not believe in anything that they cannot see. Yet, none of them have ever seen the wind itself, only the results of the wind, and yet they all believe in the wind because they have felt it and have seen its effects!

In the same way we, beyond question, have felt the mighty presence of the Spirit and witnessed His mighty workings, though we have never seen Him!

The Spirit, Like The Wind, Blows Where He Wishes... Is Invisible Yet He Is Perceptible...

3. The Spirit, Like The Wind, Is Mysterious In His Workings! (John 3:8c)

Wind is very mysterious in its nature, isn't it! Sometimes it blows in one direction, sometimes it blows in an entirely different direction, sometimes it may even whip around from multiple directions. (That was always fun at our Christmas Eve Bar-B-Q's)

Even more mysterious is the Holy Spirit and His Workings! *(e.g. The Burlington Tent Revival Meetings — 11 weeks; The Bristol Revival Meetings—4 weeks)*

We cannot tell where the Holy Spirit will display His mighty, gracious, and glorious power next!

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*The Spirit, Like The Wind, Blows Where He Wishes...
Is Invisible Yet He Is Perceptible...Is Mysterious In His
Workings...*

4. The Spirit, Like The Wind, Is Indispensable!
(John 3:5)

Without the wind (i.e. air in motion), there is no life!
Think about if the wind should absolutely cease to blow
how catastrophic that would be!

Without the Spirit of God having worked in us and
giving us His Spiritual life by birthing us into God's
family, we would not and could not have eternal life!

(Cp. Ezekiel 37:8-10)

Note here that it is only when the wind blew the breath
of God's Spirit that they came alive!

*John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh
profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they
are spirit, and they are life.*

*2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able
ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of
the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

God can take the vilest, most wicked sinner among us
and bring him out of his death by His Spirit!

*Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were
dead in trespasses and sins;*

*1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of
all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners; of whom I am chief.*