

## THE USES OF THE WORD SPIRIT IN THE BIBLE

1. The word “*spirit*” is used in many ways in the Bible.
2. The Hebrew word for spirit is *ruach* (רוּחַ), and the comparable Greek word is *pneuma* (πνεῦμα).
3. The meaning of “*spirit*” found in these contexts is as following:
  - a. Spirit - **breath (life)**, soul, that which gives life, oxygen (Gen. 6:17; 7:15, 22; James 2:26)
  - b. Spirit - **spirit of the beast**, animal life, instinct (Eccl.3:21)
  - c. Spirit - **wind**, blowing, breathing (John 3:8)
  - d. Spirit - a quality or disposition characterizing **a person’s attitude or action** as having a spirit of wisdom, of humility, of understanding, of council, of might, of knowledge, of truth, of error, or of fear (Isa. 11:2; Prov. 16:19; 1 John 4:6)
  - e. Spirit - the **nature of the Godhead** (John 4:24; Rom. 8:9; 1 Pet.1:11)
  - f. Spirit - the **Holy Spirit**, as an individual, often found with “*holy*” (ἅγιος) (Acts 2:4)
  - g. Spirit - **angels**, *ministering* spirits (Heb. 1:14); wicked spirits (Matt. 12:43-45); evil spirits (Matt. 12:43-45; Luke 11:24)
  - h. Spirit - “**the spirit of a man,**” the “*natural man*” (an unbeliever) (Zech. 12:11 Cor. 2:11, 14) “the spirit of the world” (1 Cor. 2:12a); “a spirit of slavery” (Rom. 8:15a); “the **spirit working** in the sons of disobedience....**by nature**” (Eph. 3:2, 3)
  - i. Spirit - **devoid of spirit**; unbelievers who are not regenerated and have no Holy Spirit and no new nature (Rom. 8:15a; 2 Tim. 1:7a; Jude 19)
  - j. Spirit - “**a spirit of adoption as sons**” *the new nature* of regenerated man, able to understand the things of God (Rom. 8:15b, 16; Eph. 4:23; 1 Cor. 2:13, 15; Jude 19)
  - k. Spirit - “**being led by the spirit,**” the spiritual state, being “*filled with the Holy Spirit*” (believers only) (Rom. 8:4-6, 12-14; 1 Cor. 4:21; Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16, 18, 22, 25; 6:1)