

NOTES

~ *God, the Spirit* ~

Corporate God, El-o-heem, comprises three beings: Father of Spirits, the Son who became human to save us, and the Spirit that instructs and comforts.

It can be difficult to navigate right and wrong on our own because of social context, influences, emotion, and lack of understanding. The Spirit can help.

God's Spirit was with us at the creation of the heavens and earth (Genesis 1:1-2).

The Spirit filled the Jews with wisdom and craftsmanship (Exodus 31:3-5).

The God's Spirit enabled the Israelites to become God's prophets (Numbers 11:25-29).

OT prophecies foretold of an outpouring of the Spirit at the Messiah's first coming. Now, all people can be filled by the Spirit and part of a Holy Priesthood

The Spirit is given by God the Father at the moment of true belief (Luke 11:13 and Acts 19:2). He and is also a teacher & helper to Jesus' Followers (John 14:26 and 16:13, and 2Peter 1:21).

The Holy Spirit of our Father of Spirits also gives **gifts** to the Followers of Jesus to strengthen them. These include the **tongues** of men and angels along with **interpretation, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, and discerning** of spirits (Acts 2:4 & 13, and 1Corinthians 12:7-10).

Those with the Spirit in them out of their belief and faith that follows true belief display certain characteristics. We sometimes call them '**fruits**' of the Spirit of God: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control** (Galatians 5:22-24). Anyone not regularly exhibiting these fruits – characteristics – is probably a *believer* if anything as opposed to a *follower*.

Summary: God the Father of Spirits, the Spirit of the Son who died on our behalf when He inhabited a human body, and the Spirit that instructs and comforts all work together as corporate God – el-o-heem. The Spirit of God resides within those who truly believe in the savior and act out of that faith, providing supernatural gifts from healing to prophecies. Anyone with the Spirit of God exhibits characteristics such as joy, peace, kindness, and self-control.

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Review corporate God

Remember that corporate God, El-o-heem, comprises three beings: Father of Spirits, the Son who became human to save us, and the Spirit that instructs us while we await Jesus' return.

Breath of God to guide

Why do we need the Spirit?

The Spirit has been described in Scripture as the '*breath of god*', He is currently on earth to guide and instruct those who follow the Christ (John 16:13). Why do we need His instruction and guidance?

Importance of **intent**

The importance of intent should be clear by now. The rationale behind why we do (or consider doing) something can determine whether an action would be sinful. Also important to avoiding sin is an understanding of God's ways – the mark or standard against which our intentions or actions should be compared. In an uncomplicated world, we'd probably be able to say things like, "*Such-and-such is always wrong – don't do it!*" or "*Yeah, it's always OK to do that thing.*"

Difficult to navigate right and wrong on our own because of **social context, influences, emotion, and lack of knowledge** about God

Although we often try to do this in our very complicated world, it's not always easy to know how to navigate the waters of right and wrong when the Bible does not give specific commands or directions. This is because of social context, various influences, emotion, and a lack of adequate knowledge of God's ways in some situations. What's a person to do?

Spirit introduction

This is a great time to introduce you to the Spirit of God – the *Holy Spirit*, who helps us on many levels while *our* spirit dwells within a human form. He has been with God and us since the beginning of time and has worked on our behalf – especially from the time of the Israelites.

In the beginning

Filled the Israelites with wisdom, knowledge and craftsmanship (go into detail)

Prophecy for the Israelites too

OT prophecies foretold of an outpouring of the Spirit at the Messiah's first coming

Now, all people can be filled by the Spirit and part of a Holy Priesthood

The Spirit - given at **Pentecost** - serves to instruct and convict of sin for those who follow Jesus

God's Spirit was with us in the beginning at the creation of the heavens and earth. **[Genesis 1:1-2]**

That very Spirit filled the Israelites with wisdom, knowledge, and craftsmanship. After being in Egypt for just over 100 years, and being slaves most of it, God's people had no skills in things like metallurgy, working materials, and so-forth. But, that didn't stop God from instructing His bride to make a holy place for worship and construct the ark along with priests' artifacts. **[Exodus 31:3-5]**

The Spirit of God also enabled the Israelites to prophecy, becoming God's mouthpieces. **[Numbers 11:25-29]**

The Old Testament prophets made it clear that the coming kingdom of God would be inaugurated by the appearing of the Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Christ would initiate the 'age of the Spirit of God' wherein all of God's people would be filled and empowered by His Spirit, not just a select few as was the case in the Old Testament era. God's presence as manifested by His Spirit would no longer only be centered in the Holy of Holies in the Temple.

Now, His presence would be manifested and centered in *all* of His people to enable them all to be "a holy priesthood" endowed with the power and gifts of His Spirit.

God's Spirit was given to followers at Pentecost. We'll cover the attributes and gifts of the Spirit later, but I'm excited to tell you that He guides, instructs, and convicts us in addition to giving wonderful gifts. These gifts, freely given to those who follow the Christ, can help us see our way through murky behavioral waters when we'd otherwise be blind or misguided. The Spirit of God brings to *our* spirit comfort, knowledge, and the ability to discern between right and wrong when we allow Him to.

The Spirit is given by the Father of Spirits and is a teacher, comforter, and helper to Jesus' followers

Gifts of the Spirit:

- the **tongues** of men and angels along with **interpretation**,
- wisdom,
- knowledge
- faith
- healing
- miracles
- prophecy
- discerning of spirits

Question: "How do I recognize a Christian?"

A couple of major points about the Spirit of God: He's given by God the Father when we truly believe in the Christ, and He's the teacher and helper to those followers as they await Jesus' return.

- **Given** by God the Father at the Moment of True Belief. **[Luke 11:13]** and **[Acts 19:2]**
- **Teacher & Helper** to Jesus' Followers. **[John 14:26]**, **[John 16:13]**, and **[2Peter 1:21]**

In helping and teaching, the Holy Spirit of our Father of Spirits also gives gifts to the Followers of Jesus to strengthen them. These include the tongues of men and angels along with interpretation, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, and discerning of spirits. **[Acts 2:4 & 13]** and **[1Corinthians 12:7-10]**

We now understand that the Spirit of God is a distinct entity that works on behalf of those who follow Jesus – our savior. God the Father has given us the gift of the Spirit through Jesus. That Spirit will watch, teach, and guide until the return of our savior at His second coming.

We also understand that the Spirit gives gifts to lift up, teach, mature, and help the assembly of Jesus' followers (His 'bride'). Those gifts are supernatural and meant to help sustain the followers. We can preach the Gospel message boldly through faith. We can lift each other up through wisdom, knowledge, and healing. We can protect and sustain one another through the discerning of spirits and miracles.

Let's take a side trip for a moment, and ask a very good question: "How do I know who else is in this assembly of followers of Jesus? How can I tell a brother or sister in Christ from anyone else?"

Great question! We have to know who to trust, after all. And, the Bible tells of 'tares' and false prophets. We have to be wise in our dealings in the Church as a whole and beware of them!

Followers of Jesus have the Spirit and display:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

Summary

Here's the answer to the question: Those with the Spirit of God in them out of their belief and faith that follows true belief display certain characteristics. We sometimes call them 'fruits' of the Spirit of God.

The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Anyone not regularly exhibiting these fruits – characteristics – is probably a *believer* if anything as opposed to a *follower*.

[Galatians 5:22-24]

Summary: God the Father of Spirits, the Spirit of the Son who died on our behalf when He inhabited a human body, and the Spirit that instructs, teaches, and comforts all work together as corporate God – el-o-heem. The Spirit of God resides within those who truly believe in the savior and act out of that faith. As one of the faithful, you'd potentially have any one or more of a number of supernatural gifts from healing to prophecies. Anyone housing the Spirit of God within them exhibits certain characteristics such as joy, peace, kindness, and self-control.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. —Genesis 1:1-2.

I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. —Exodus 31:3-5.

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do it again. But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp. . . . But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!" —Numbers 11:25-29.

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" —Luke 11:13.

He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." —Acts 19:2.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." —John 14:26.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." —John 16:13.

for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. —2Peter 1:21.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance . . . which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. — Acts 2:4 & 13.

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. —1Corinthians 12:7-10.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. —Galatians 5:22-24.